

<b>TODAY</b> <b>10P</b>	<b>15 PAGES OF TIMES SPORT</b> <b>TEDDY'S RETURN</b> Jeers and cheers for Sheringham at Spurs P 23 <b>TOMORROW</b> <b>CHOOSE YOUR TEAM</b> Win prizes worth £100,000	<b>WHATEVER HAPPENED TO MELISSA BELL?</b> PAGE 15	<b>MIND GAMES</b> Free 16-page supplement on the Mind Sports Olympiad	<b>TODAY</b> <b>10P</b>
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## British sportsmen demonstrate their talent for coming second

By MICHAEL CALVIN AND MATTHEW BEARD

BRITISH sportsmen yet again demonstrated the art of coming second yesterday as Damon Hill limped across the line with engine trouble after leading the Hungarian Grand Prix until the last lap, the men's 4x400 team were pipped at the line to take silver in Athens — and England's cricketers crumbled to defeat in the Ashes series.

Damon Hill was overtaken by Jacques Villeneuve after being stuck in third gear and plagued by a faulty throttle system that permitted only intermittent power to a car that had almost won after being written off as an embarrassingly frail

makeweight. The only consolation was that defeat, by nine seconds, answered the whispered slurs that Hill was content to rest on his championship laurels.

Villeneuve admitted: "Damon just disappeared. He was worth a win today." Arrows team owner Tom Walkinshaw, who controversially questioned Hill's commitment before last month's British Grand Prix, added: "Damon just drove away from the field. He really deserved this race." Even a rival team owner like former world champion Alain Prost was moved to announce: "I feel really sorry for him. He really deserved to win."

It would have been the first win for the Arrows team, which is in its twentieth season in Formula One. Hill had only a

solitary championship point before yesterday. The British athletics team in Athens clocked up its fifth silver (along with one bronze) in the world athletics championships after an heroic display in the 4x400 relay, ending 0.18sec behind America after threatening an unexpected victory when Jamie Baulch took the lead on the third leg.

England's cricketers — set 451 to win the fifth Test, crumbled to 186 all-out, 264 behind Australia with a day to spare. The Australians lead the series 3-1 lead with one match remaining.

Glenn McGrath took the winning wicket when he induced an edge from Devon Malcolm with Mark Waugh taking an easy catch at second slip,

sparking scenes of jubilation amongst the Australian players. Only Graham Thorpe offered any resistance, hitting an unbeaten 82 as his team-mates fell in regular succession at the other end.

Australia's triumph represents a remarkable reversal of fortune after the tourists' poor start to the summer when they were whitewashed in the one-day series and then lost the first Test at Edgbaston.

The rain-hit second Test at Lord's ended in a draw but the tide turned decisively Australia's way at Old Trafford where the tourists won the first of three straight victories to retain the oldest prize in world cricket winning the day with good bowling against poor batting.

Then England captain Michael Atherton appealed to the Test selectors to keep the present team for the winter series in the West Indies.

"If the selectors look at a beaten side at the end of the series and decide to change it, that would be a shame," he said. "I think most sides in the world will compete on level terms with, but the Australians are the best team in the world."

Atherton sidestepped the matter of his future as England captain. "We'll have to wait and see," he said. The Australian captain Mark Taylor said that he wanted to beat England in the final Test.



Hill became stuck in third when he was in the lead

Sport, pages 24, 25, 31

## Muddle over U-turn on the gap trap

By NICHOLAS WOOD, DAVID CHARTER AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE future of thousands of university applicants was thrown into confusion last night after a government U-turn over course fees for "gap year" students.

Ministers were accused of creating policy on the hoof by offering to exempt from tuition fees those who have already arranged to work for charity as part of their year off before taking up university places next year — when the charges are to be imposed.

Nearly 20,000 have applied for a gap year, but only 2,000 are expected to benefit from the concession. Ministers hoped that the plan would prevent students changing their minds about taking a year off and choosing instead to join the scramble for the last free higher education places before the introduction of course fees and the scrapping of grants next year.

But critics said the proposals, which will not be detailed until after the A-level results are released on Thursday, could create extra muddle. (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas) said that the announcement would make the situation pre-fraught on Thursday.

Ministers needed more details. Jeopardy them in Clearing, the ritual rush to fill vacant places once the results come out.

The pressure on ministers was increased by the Labour-dominated National Union of Students, which said that it was preparing a test case over fees for gap year students. The challenge is given a boost by legal opinion in a letter to *The Times* today.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, said the Government would waive fees for gap year students who spent at least three months doing voluntary or charity work. But they would have to prove that they had secured placements of at least three months with recognised charities before the Government announced its shake-up of higher education funding on July 23.

Senior Whitehall sources emphasised yesterday that the reprieve was a one-off. It was clear that Mr Blunkett had been forced into a hasty revision of his original proposals by the outcry over the plight of gap year students. As late as last Friday evening, a spokesman for Baroness Blackstone, the Higher Education Minister, said that she had no intention of waiving anybody's university fees, but by Saturday night, the U-turn had been agreed.

Sources said ministers were still putting "flesh on the bones" of an announcement expected next Friday. Officials have yet to decide whether the exemption will apply solely to the tuition fees of £1,000 a year or whether it will also extend to maintenance grants worth up to £2,160, which are to be replaced with loans from 1998.

One Whitehall aide said: "David Blunkett is very clear that people planning to help the community and the disadvantaged should not be unfairly penalised for having made these plans and for us turning around and saying, 'Thank you very much for doing community work — and now you can pay these fees. It's a one-off and not for those who have decided to go off back-

packing. It should not be presented as a U-turn." Angela Browning, an Opposition education spokeswoman, accused the Government of making policy "on the hoof" without thinking through the implications. "They are simply making it up as they go along. They wouldn't pass an A-level exam with this kind of muddled thinking," she said.

Tony Higgins, chief executive of Ucas, said: "I would imagine most people would want to make up their minds on Thursday about what they want to do. I would have thought this latest decision will make it even more fraught than it need be."

Ucas estimates that some 71,000 of the 350,000 A-level students were expecting to take a year out. Of the 23,000 who applied for 1998 alongside 1997 applicants, 19,000 are holding offers conditional upon Thursday's results.

Douglas Trainer, the new Labour president of the NUS, said the Government's attitude towards gap year students was outrageous. Many university departments welcomed a gap year because it gave students the chance to work in their chosen fields.

Mr Trainer added: "These applicants must be accepted under the stated terms and conditions set down when they applied. The Government should honour this agreement and we will take on test cases for gap year students forced to pay fees if they defer university entry to 1998."

Full listings of degree course vacancies will appear in *The Times* on Thursday.

Letters, page 19

## Factor 15 sun rub for scorched pets

By ALAN HAMILTON

WHEN global warming transforms Sussex into an olive-groved Tuscany, and the windy Shetlands into the balmy Isle of Wight, the first concern of the British will be for their animals.

Early signs emerged during the weekend's dress rehearsal for a Mediterranean England when temperatures exceeded 86°F (30°C) in many parts of the country. Pershire recorded 90°F (32.2°C), Birmingham 88.7°F (31.5°C) and Heathrow came close behind at 88.5 (31.4°C) in mid-afternoon. Humidity across much of England was between 30 and 50 per cent, causing widespread languor and perspiration. The highest humidity, 97 per cent, was recorded in Orkney, but it came in the form of murky low cloud and mist without the accompanying benefit of heat. In these sizzling conditions,

a respected veterinary body advised the nation to smear sunblock on the snouts and ears of its fair-skinned cats and dogs as a precaution.

Continued on page 3, col 8

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Forecast, page 22

**TRAVEL AGENT**

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PH



Diana, Princess of Wales, comforts Elvira Tadic, 57, at the graveside of her son

## Princess's embrace breaks down the language barrier

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN SARAJEVO

AS GRAINY photographs of her embrace with a playboy might now include one Dodi Al Fayed, she was less bright. In what was said to be an unscheduled stop yesterday morning, the Princess walked alone in the Lav Cemetery near Sarajevo where many thousands of those killed in the civil war are buried in hastily dug graves.

As the Princess wandered in the shadow of the Olympic stadium, she came across Elvira Tadic, 57, a Muslim woman at the graveside of her son Dragan who died three years ago. Unable to speak each other's language, they hugged for several minutes until an interpreter arrived.

Later she walked through the rubble at Dobrinje where she was warned to stick to the road for fear of the lethal mines she had heard so much

about. And then she was taken into the hills above Sarajevo and the desperately impoverished hamlet of Bujakovo Potok. The Princess met Mirzeta Gabic, 15, and was said afterwards to have been moved to tears by the girl's story of losing a leg when she trod on a landmine on her way to market.

While she was generally less lively yesterday, this marked no change in her relationship with the press on the three-day trip. She posed for numerous photographs but uttered not a word to reporters.

But as the Princess waved goodbye to Bosnia, she could reflect that the photographs in the newspapers on her lap may have overshadowed her visit, but they had by no means made it worthless. The maimed victims she has talked to have been unanimous in thanking her for highlighting their plight.

## New York gasps at Wallis and Edward show

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

HUNDREDS of goggle-eyed tourists jostled with inquisitive New Yorkers outside the shop windows of Bergdorf Goodman yesterday as the Fifth Avenue store put on a jaunty display of Windsor memorabilia that included some of the Duchess's dresses, the Duke's reading glasses and even a slice of their wedding cake.

The items all come from the collection of their personal effects that will be auctioned off here next month at Sotheby's. The display, which can only be described as eclectic, occupied six whole windows of the swanky store, arguably New York's leading retailers of women's high fashion.

The Duchess's bon mots festooned each window, serving as an understated backdrop to some rather gaudy frocks and baubles. Particularly fine was this example: "If you accept a dinner invitation, you have a moral duty to be charming." Less fine, however, was her collection of lurid porcelain pugs, a breed of dog to which she was clearly devoted. Of equally dubious

taste were her multicoloured porcelain monkeys.

Most popular with the gawkers were her dresses, some of which might be described as "proto-Versace" in their disdain for colour coordination. A beige crepe de chine ankle-length gown, held up by a psychedelic belt studded with red, green, yellow and purple beads, drew gasps of approval from a group of Puerto Rican matrons.

The Japanese tourists preferred her shoes, of which several pairs were on display. The more cynical among them were heard to mutter the word "Imelda". Equally eye-catching were the Duke's pumps, worn on his wedding day: not only were they remarkably small (size six at most), but each shoe also boasted a large black dandy's bow.

His wedding suit was on display, too, with the tie fastened in the way most characteristic of the Duke — a too-fat "double Windsor". By the side of the suit, draped on a stool, lay a silk cravat with the text of his abdication speech embroidered on it.

Continued on page 2, col 3

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**BY STEPHEN FARRELL**

"I would hate to see the day when the British press are prevented from exposing that wrongdoing and dealing with corruption among certain individuals. Often its only the press who can do that job."

The photographs, taken with a long lens, show the Princess in a pink swimsuit with coral motifs hugging Mr Fayed, 41, a divorced Hollywood producer, aboard his father's £15 million yacht *Jonikal* off Sardinia on Mon-

Brenna stumbled on the Princess by accident on Monday after spotting Mohammed Al Fayed's yacht while working on other stories. He is expected to make six-figure sums from his key markets, Britain, the US and Australia, with France, Spain, Italy and Germany each providing up to £100,000 more.

Alan Hamilton, page 15

The sale of the collection, which chronicles the love of Edward VIII for the American divorcee Wallis Simpson, is being heralded as the greatest royal sale since Charles II's treasures were disposed of more than 300 years ago. Exhibitions of some of the 3,200 lots, expected to net more than £5 million during the eight-day auction, are being held in Chicago, São Paulo in Brazil, Brazil and Buenos Aires.



**By STEWART TENDLER**

A police complaint over the remarks made by Judge Fergus Mitchell at a Snaresbrook Crown Court has also been passed to Mr Justice Wright, the head of the south-east circuit. Colin Port, head of Serco, the Southeast Regional Crime Squad, backed by chief constables, wants Judge Mitchell rebuked for remarks which police think were exco-

The case had to be abandoned after a police log of surveillance operations disappeared immediately after the defence requested its presentation for forensic examination. The logs had been in court briefly during an earlier hearing, and the judge had allowed them to be taken back to Hainault police station in east London where the squad was based.

The judge told the court:

Immediately after the case Mr Port ordered a transcript of the judge's remarks. Officers in the regional crime squad say that the judge was

The investigation supervised by the PCA is still under way. No officers have been suspended.

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

He has the full backing of Chris Smith, National Heritage Secretary. Mr Mianrod is seeking to inject the economic regeneration of seaside towns among his plans are a new grading system for hotels, guest houses and bed and breakfast places. Lottery money has already been allo-

"We must get away from the idea of a British holiday being yobs on the rampage. There are lots of positive things going on."

A nine-year-old girl and her father were injured after their yacht exploded while refuelling at a marina in Chichester, West Sussex. David Stowell, 41, and his daughter Charlotte, from Southwater, West Sussex, were last night being treated for burns in hospital in Chichester. Eye-witnesses reported a series of explosions aboard the boat which was severely damaged in the blaze. Three other members of the family who were on board escaped unhurt.

The actress Jane Asher, right, has been made president of the National Autistic Society after being involved in its work for more than ten years. Ms Asher said yesterday: "I am proud to be part of the excellent work that the society is doing. Autism is a complex condition and I am happy to do what I can to help highlight the problems that people with autism and their families face."



**BY POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER**

The Department of Health has confirmed that 44 of the 110 health authorities in Eng-

Mr Dobson denied a claim by the Liberal Democrats that the changes had been introduced without publicity in an attempt to hide the problem. "I have been making the position clear and taking responsibility for it for two months now," he said.

Margaret Cook, a consultant haematologist at St John's Hospital in her husband's constituency of Livingston in Lothian, said she should "probably" have spent more time in London with Mr Cook.

"In practice, however, this has hardly been possible over the past five years because of the demands of my profession," she said. "The vicious financial stringencies imposed on the health service by the last Government have prevented rational approaches to staffing and many consultants, myself included, have carried excessive workloads with little hope of alleviation."

It's not yet on the national curriculum but a visit to Harrods is always an education. 'Class of '97' is a whole range of exciting new products now available in the ultimate one stop children's shop. That means everything your children need for the summer holidays or the new school term, from reference books to Timberland boots, school uniforms to designer clothing by Ralph Lauren, Moschino and Armani. So don't neglect your children's education this summer: bring them to Knightsbridge. When school's out, Harrods is in.

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# Sweltering Brits cast eyes at Arctic



## Oil slick hits coast of France

MANY of Normandy's beaches were closed to bathers this weekend after a spill from an oil tanker. Yesterday, the ban was lifted between the towns of Honfleur and Honfleur.

The spill happened when the tanker *Katja*, flying the Bahamian flag, collided with a pontoon off the port of Le Havre on Thursday. The slick spread southwest, affecting more than 40 kilometres of coastline.

On Saturday, more than 300 firemen, servicemen and volunteers worked to clean up the beaches. More than a hundred birds, their feathers coated in the thick, black oil, were rescued, but their chances for survival were slim.

The ban on swimming remained in force round the port of Le Havre, and the town of Saint-Adresse.



Balmy. Bournemouth had a warm, open sea and a few square feet of sand for those who were tempted. Temperatures in the south were in the mid-80s.

Continued from page 1  
against skin cancer. Then, curators of a rare breeds farm near Carlisle were out, at great risk to themselves, plastering factor 15 on their Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs to prevent them turning to bacon on the hoof. Other animals were in equal danger. Staff at Butterfly World at Stockton on Tees, which exhibits butterflies, iguanas and other creatures of the Amazon jungle, had to pump cool air into the greenhouse to protect their charges from the effects of extreme heat.

But the heat was not universally feted. The Norwegian airline Braathens reported an unprecedented interest from the sweltering English in trips to the Arctic Circle.

Since the heatwave began, tourists have been heading in unusually large numbers for the north Norwegian town of Tromsø, which boasts a fine modern cathedral, the most northerly in the world, and an interesting collection of fish processing plants. Some are heading even further, to the distant ice-capped archipelago of Svalbard deep in the Arctic.

Perhaps they should postpone a decision. Forecasters say that a band of thunderstorms will migrate from the southwest all the way to Scotland during today and tomorrow. Any moment now there will be a solemn warning not to stand under trees, especially with an unprotected dog.

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Forecast, page 22

## Uncle arrested after teenager dies on jetski

Girl hit by speedboat propeller, reports Lin Jenkins

A FAMILY celebrating a child's birthday watched in horror as her 17-year-old sister was killed when a jetski crashed into a boat on a leisure lake.

Faye Grundy, who was riding pillion on a jetski driven by her uncle, was catapulted into the propeller of the boat, towing a water skier. She suffered severe injuries to her stomach and a leg, and died on the way to hospital.

Her uncle, Tony Gee, 36, could face prosecution over her death. Police are investigating whether reckless driving or 'floating' of safety procedures contributed to the accident. Mr Gee had taken Faye for the ride during a family day out to the 40-acre Queenford Lake, near Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

Miss Grundy's stepfather, Anthony Jones, 45, said his wife Mandy, 38, had taken her daughter Faye and Harriet, 12, to celebrate their sister Gemma's 15th birthday. Mr Gee had joined the group with other friends and their children.

Mr Jones said Miss Grundy had been a reluctant addition to the party. "Faye didn't want to go at first but her mum asked her and she came



Faye Grundy: riding pillion on jetski

along," he said. "When she was there she had a really good time playing with my friend's two-year-old son and waiting for a go on the jetski."

"We went on three jetskis — myself, a friend, Faye and her uncle. The staff at the centre were brilliant. One went through everything with us and then he went around the lake a couple of times. We have no idea how the accident happened. Faye had never been on a jetski before."

Mrs Jones watched helplessly from the bank as her

daughter became entangled in the propeller of a boat towing a water skier.

Day-trippers watched in disbelief as the jetski left the designated area and went into the lane reserved for water skiing.

Miss Grundy, of Benson, Oxfordshire, was due to begin a college course in beauty therapy next term. Friends said yesterday she was known as "smiley Faye" because of her good nature and cheerful demeanour.

One witness said: "Her mother was absolutely distraught. A rescue boat was out to them very quickly but there was nothing anyone could do to help the poor girl. She didn't stand a chance."

Mr Gee, of Chalgrove, Oxfordshire, suffered minor head injuries and was released after treatment. He was later arrested by police, interviewed and released on police bail pending further inquiries. Tests showed he was not over the drink-drive limit.

Yesterday Lake Estate Water Sports closed the lake as a mark of respect to the family of the dead teenager. An investigation has been launched by the Health and Safety Executive.

Nothing less than 11,137 metres  
of water will satisfy  
Dr Earle's thirst for knowledge.



Moving along a steep subsea wall in a thunderstorm, or being circled hundreds of miles from shore by fifty inquisitive sharks, Dr Sylvia Earle sometimes asks herself: "What on earth am I doing here?" Such moments rapidly pass.

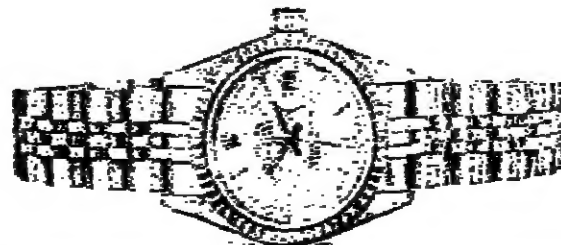
For as a leading marine biologist, nothing could be more important to her than exploring oceans.

Her quest has led her below forests of kelp and swaying prairies of weed to gaping chasms.

Yet she will not rest until she has working access to the very deepest parts.

The technology necessary to assist in such journeys will be awesome; however, some of it is already in place.

Of the Rolex Chronometer that never leaves her wrist Dr Earle merely says: "Of course, an Oyster can go deeper than many submarines." **ROLEX** of Geneva



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## Best to play it cool when the heat is on

WOULD Peter Mandelson have been quite so emphatic at his press conference, or on *The World At One*, if London had not been enjoying one of its sunny, muggy weeks? Hot weather begins to affect mood, as well as appetite, libido, concentration, and ability to sleep, long before disorders such as heat stroke.

In hot weather, clothes should be loose and light, to reflect the sun, and allow air to circulate around the body, encouraging the evaporation of sweat. Sleeping is always a problem in muggy weather. Most people sleep better under a sheet than with no covering.

This is the one time of the year when even those people with incipient or actual heart or lung disease can afford to sleep with an open window. Libido is reduced by excessive heat, so a temporary migration to separate beds may not cause too great a hardship. This makes for a cooler bed and a night away from a hot, sweaty, restless partner.

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

When hot and sweaty, there is the temptation to quench the thirst, and calm irritability, by having long alcoholic drinks. A couple may be helpful, but any excessive alcoholic intake makes the situation very much worse. Three pints of soft drinks a day, whether water, tea, or diluted fruit juices, helps prevent a comparatively sedentary person from becoming dehydrated. Those who undertake violent exercise may need very much more.

Heat stroke is of sudden onset and results from failure of the sweating mechanism. Temperature rises rapidly, the skin becomes dry, hot and red, and the pulse and respiratory rate

increase alarmingly. Death may follow complete circulatory failure, or the brain or central nervous system may be permanently damaged. Treatment is by the rapid cooling of the body, usually by immersion in cold water or being wrapped in a wet sheet.

In one instance, a patient was saved by being covered in a sheet which was then drenched in a cocktail of drinks from an ice box brought for a picnic.

Heat exhaustion, from overdoing exercise or taking too little fluid, leads to profuse sweating, a slow pulse, fast respiratory rate and low blood pressure. The treatment is immediate fluid and salt replacement.





Lucille McLauchlan, left, and Deborah Parry, who expect a verdict on murder charges within a week

## Murder case nurses await judges' verdict

Lawyers for Britons present evidence against demand for death penalty.

reports Michael Theodoulou

THE two British nurses accused of murdering an Australian colleague in Saudi Arabia face an agonising wait for the verdict after judges yesterday abruptly closed the case and retired to consider the evidence.

Lucille McLauchlan and Deborah Parry did not attend the 45-minute hearing at the Islamic sharia court in Al Khubar. The verdict is expected within a week, relatives said.

The women's fate would now appear to depend on whether the judges accept as evidence alleged confessions which they later retracted, insisting they had been made under threats of sexual assault by Saudi police and promises of an early release. Their lawyers have repeatedly urged the court to throw out the confessions. The prosecution

has apparently presented no other evidence.

Yesterday, lawyers for Ms McLauchlan, 31, and Ms Parry, 38, presented what they called critical new evidence to undermine the right of the victim's family to demand the death penalty if they are found guilty of killing Yvonne Gilford, 55. She was stabbed, bludgeoned with a hammer and suffocated last December at the King Fahd medical complex in Dhahran, eastern Saudi Arabia.

The lawyers produced medical documents from Australia which purportedly showed that the victim's mother, Muriel Gilford, 84, was suffering from Alzheimer's disease and was incapable of deciding the nurses' fate.

Under Saudi law, a murder victim's immediate family can call for execution, but only if



Gilford: found stabbed in medical complex

the decision is unanimous. Frank Gilford, the victim's brother and only other immediate relative, has persistently demanded the death penalty, which in Saudi Arabia means public beheading by the sword.

However, the likelihood of the death penalty being imposed was lessened on Friday when a leading member of the Saudi Royal Family declared that the two women did not

deserve to be executed. "That's a pretty cast-iron assurance, I'd say," Michael Dark, one of the nurses' lawyers in Riyadh, said.

Prince Talal bin Abdul Aziz, a brother of King Fahd, said in an interview with the *Washington Times*: "I am telling you that in this case there will be no beheadings."

Ms Parry, of Alton, Hampshire, has been so haunted by fears that she might be beheaded in public that she has had regular psychiatric treatment.

But the Saudi authorities had made it clear since the trial opened in May that they would do their utmost to rule out the possibility of two Western women being executed.

Before any evidence was heard, the judges made an appeal to Mr Gilford to consider accepting a financial settlement, commonly known as "blood money", in the event of a guilty verdict. When he persisted in demanding the death penalty, the court then questioned his legal status as his sister's heir.

**BBC**

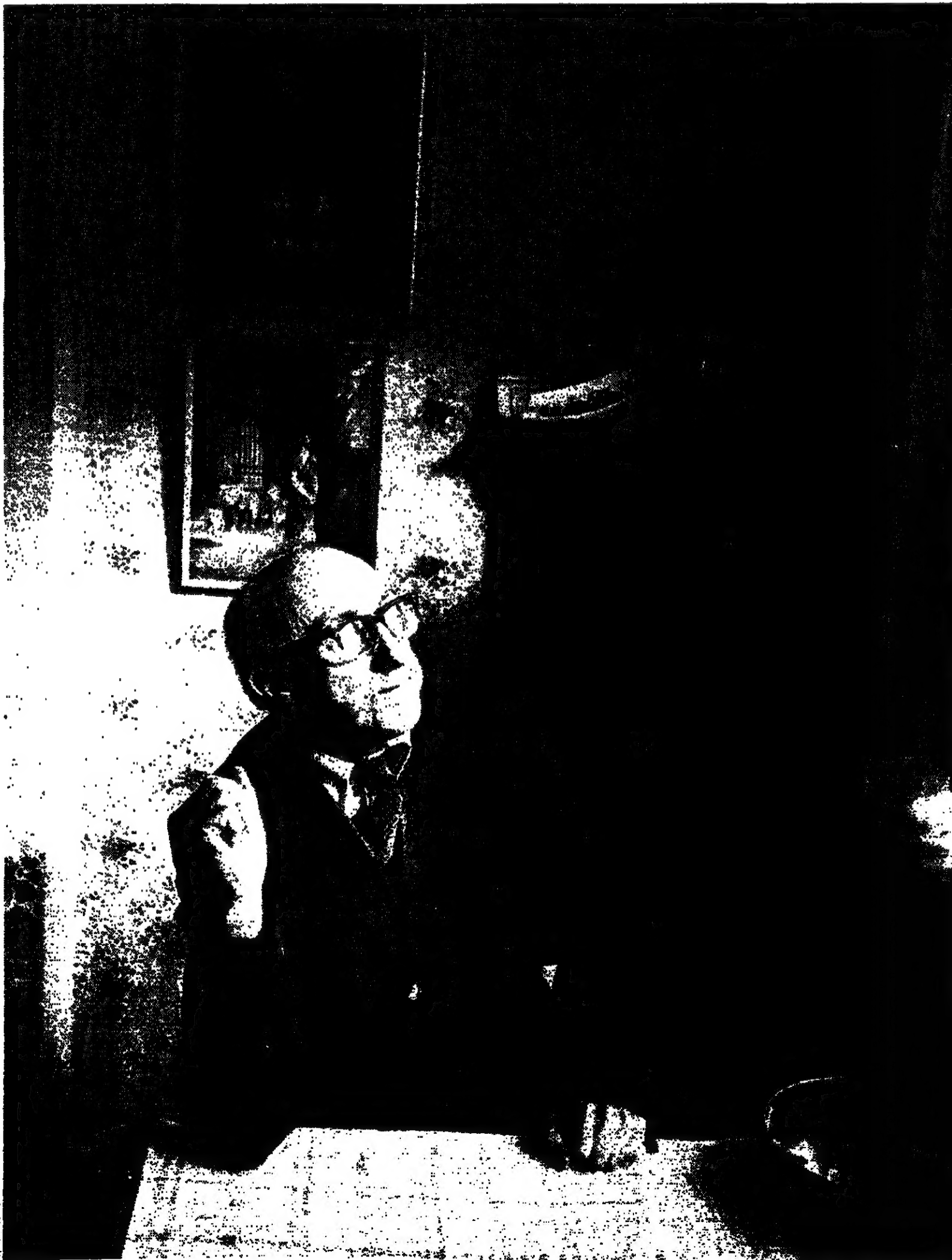
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## Chile puts Britain's star role on hold

By NIGEL HAWKES

BRITAIN'S biggest astronomy project could be delayed by a dispute over funding with Chile, which has failed to pay its share of the costs.

The Gemini project plans to build two big telescopes, one in Chile and one in Hawaii, to provide high-quality coverage of the entire sky. Britain is committed to paying a quarter of the £115 million cost.

Officials of the US-led consortium which is building the telescopes have now given the Chileans until September 1 to settle a three-year legal dispute which has blocked payment of Chile's 5 per cent share. If Chile fails to meet the deadline, Gemini will do a deal with Australia, which is eager to step into the breach.

Matt Mountain, project director for Gemini, which is based in Tucson, Arizona, told *Science* magazine: "The project is running out of cash, and if nothing happens soon we will have to delay work on the southern telescope."

A network of telescopes in Chile, South Africa and Australia has detected what is believed to be a planet circling a star thousands of light years from Earth. The star has a mass similar to that of the Sun, while the planet is the size of Jupiter. More data is needed to confirm the existence of the new planet.

## Handgun amnesty 'will end in chaos'

By PETER FOSTER

THE handover of thousands of handguns outlawed after Dunblane is in danger of descending into administrative and financial chaos, a firearms group warned yesterday.

It claims that thousands of gun enthusiasts will overwhelm the system in a last-minute rush to hand in their guns to police.

Owners of the estimated 160,000 banned large-calibre handguns have until October 1 to give up their weapons. Police say only 30,000 pistols have been surrendered since the amnesty began on July 1.

Albie Fox, director of the Sportsman's Association, which represents 43,000 shooting enthusiasts, said: "It will be chaos, tying up considerable amounts of manpower and requiring them [the police] to draft in extra staff."

Some forces, including Surrey police, have attempted to speed up gun collection by writing to licence holders. The system for surrendering guns varies widely between police forces. Some constabularies, such as Lancashire, are making individual appointments for owners while others expect gun owners to attend designated stations between fixed hours on nominated days.

The Government has estimated the bill for compensation at £169 million, but the shooting lobby puts the figure as high as £450 million.

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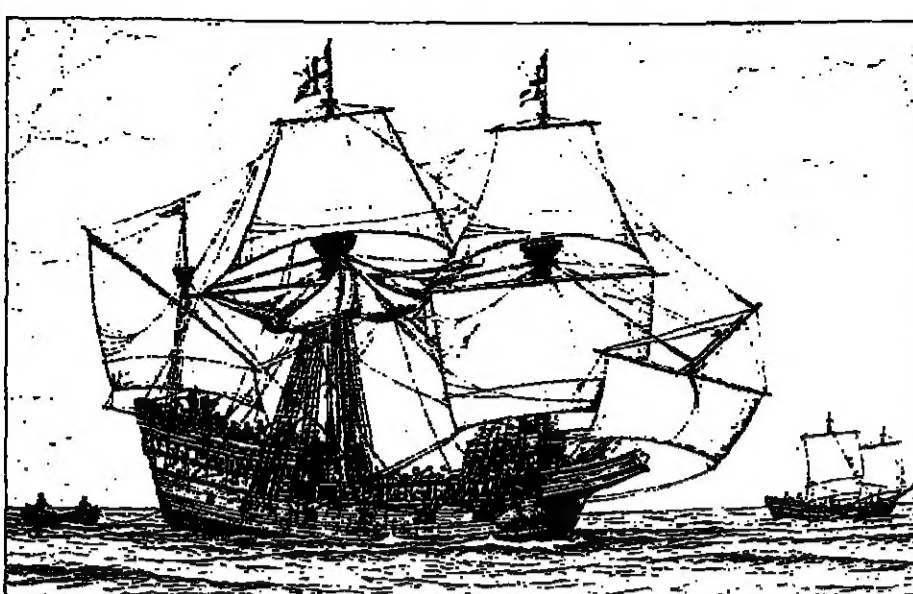
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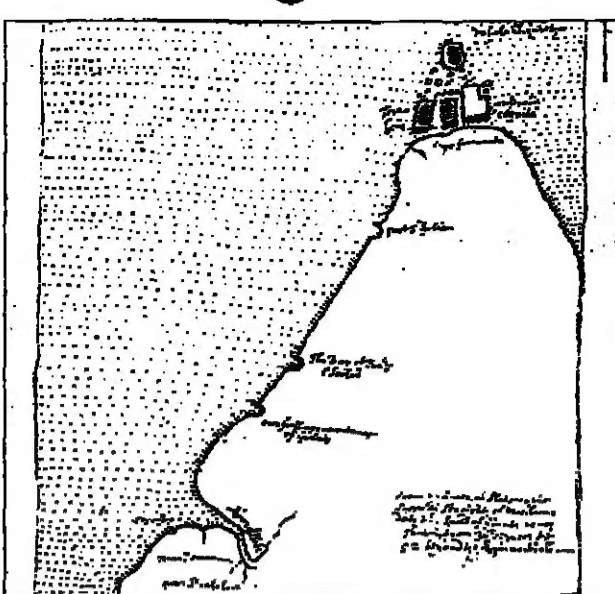
# Drake's boat comes in after 400 years



The statue of Sir Francis Drake in Plymouth. Captain Aker said the acceptance by Dutch and American historians of his claims ended an injustice to Drake.



A drawing by Captain Aker of the *Golden Hind*. The ship's chaplain, Francis Fletcher, drew this map of Cape Horn, discovered in 1578.



Navigator is finally credited with discovering Cape Horn, reports Mark Henderson

MORE than 400 years after his death, Dutch and American history books are to be rewritten to acknowledge Sir Francis Drake as the man who discovered Cape Horn, the southernmost point of South America.

The American National Maritime Historical Society and the Dutch Cape Horners Foundation, which have long promoted the rival claims of the Dutch navigator Willem Schouten, have both accepted the arguments of Captain Raymond Aker, a retired seaman from California, that Drake reached the Cape in 1578, during his circumnavigation of the world.

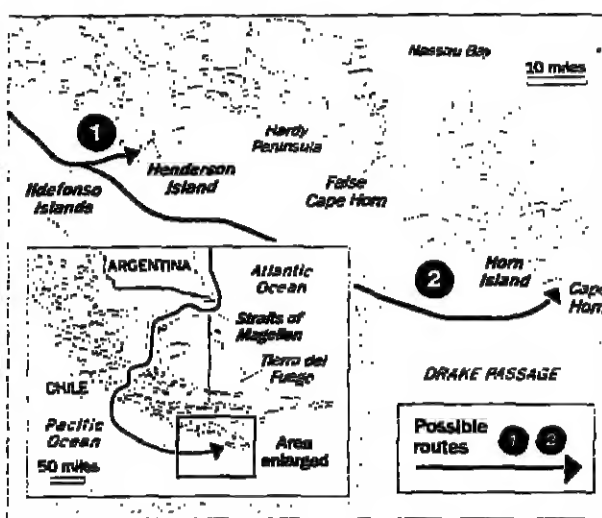
Schouten did not land on the Cape until 1616, but has generally been credited with the discovery. He named the Cape after his home town, Hoorn.

Captain Aker has used maps and documentary accounts of Drake's circumnavigation to prove that he landed on Cape Horn. Horn Island's southern headland, when storms blew the *Golden Hind* off course after he had sailed into the Pacific Ocean through the Straits of Magellan. Drake named the cape "Elizabetha" after Elizabeth I and claimed it for England.

Since 1926, when the American historian Henry R. Wagner wrote *Sir Francis Drake's Voyage Around the World*, it has been thought



Michael Turner, who said a map of Drake's route proved he landed at the Cape.



that the *Golden Hind* landed on the nearby Henderson Island, which is north west of Cape Horn. Victorians had credited the discovery to Drake.

Michael Turner, founder of the Drake Exploration Society, said that a description by Francis Fletcher, the *Golden Hind*'s chaplain, proved beyond doubt that the ship had landed at Cape Horn. "Francis Fletcher tells us that from the southern headland of the island, no other islands could be seen," he said.

"That only fits with Horn Island. From Henderson Island, you would be able to see

the Idefonso Islands and False Cape Horn at the end of the Hardy Peninsula."

The latitude Drake recorded for his landfall, 56 degrees, is also closer to that of Cape Horn than Henderson Island's southern cape, Cape Brisbane.

Several British maps of the foot of South America made before Schouten's voyage to the Cape also show Horn Island, with clear ocean beneath it. Captain Aker has compared these maps, by Fletcher, Jodocus Hondius and Edward Wright, with modern charts to show that the island shown is Horn

Island, not Henderson Island. The waters between Horn Island and Antarctica are known as the Drake Passage.

Schouten's historical claim to have been the first European to reach the Cape was possible because Drake's discovery was made a state secret by Elizabeth I, who wanted to protect knowledge of a new gateway to the Pacific. The Straits of Magellan, controlled by the Spaniards, were thought to be the only passage at the time and contemporary maps show a continent south of the straits, known as Terra Australis.

Mr Turner said that most

British historians had long supported Drake's claim above Schouten's. Hazelhoff Roelfzema, of the Dutch Cape Horners Foundation, said that the theory that Drake discovered the Cape "is now the most probable". Captain Aker said their acceptance of the discovery "ends an injustice to Drake".

The Americans and Captain Aker's Drake Navigators Guild of California are to write to the Queen asking her to make a proclamation confirming Drake's discovery.

The Drake Exploration Society is raising money to fund an expedition to Horn Island to find a carving that would provide the final proof.

"Fletcher went ashore with a boy and carved an inscription on a stone on the highest point of the island," Mr Turner said. "We want to go there in October, the same month as Drake, so the vegetation will be the same and we stand a good chance of finding it."

Sir David Nicholas, the former chairman of ITN who is patron of the society, is leading the fundraising.

Captain Aker is also pressing historians to accept his evidence that Drake landed at Drakes Estero in northern California in 1579, claiming it for England as Nova Albion. He hopes to have the bay made a United States heritage landmark.

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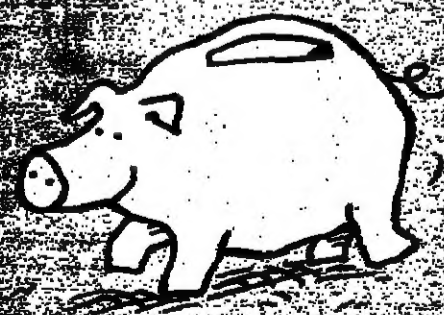
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A black and white photograph of a Fiat Ritmo car parked in a field. In the background, a small town with a church spire is visible on a hillside, with a large mountain in the distance.

Artic page 10

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# Broker of Northern Ireland talks ponders his future role in peace

John Hume must decide whether to stand, uncontested, for the Irish presidency. He spoke to Martin Fletcher

JOHN HUME leaves for a holiday in France this week during which he must weigh one of the toughest choices of his long and distinguished career.

The 60-year-old leader of the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party must decide whether he wants to become Ireland's next president — but in doing so to relinquish his pivotal role in the forthcoming peace negotiations that he has done more than anyone to broker. Interviewed in a hotel in his native Londonderry, Mr Hume insisted he had given no "deep thought" to succeeding Mary Robinson in November and had not discussed the possibility with party colleagues. He conspicuously failed to rule it out, however, and the pressure on him to run for the presidency is growing daily.

Mr Hume, who would be the first Irish president from the North, is receiving plenty of encouragement from Dublin where the ruling Fianna Fail and the main opposition party Fine Gael would readily make him their uncontested candidate. The Irish media

have seized on the idea, with the *Irish Times* declaring that he "has the stature and the vision to ensure that the highest office in the land does not slide backwards from the high watermark of the Robinson presidency". A poll in Dublin's *Sunday Independent* yesterday gave him double the support of that for his closest rival, the former Taoiseach Albert Reynolds. The singer Dana barely registered.

It is easy to understand why Mr Hume, the soft-spoken

Leading article.....19

MP for Foyle and MEP, might be tempted by the viceregal luxury of Aras an Uachtaráin, the President's Dublin residence. The strain of promoting peace talks, and years of shuttling to Westminster, Strasbourg and America, have taken their toll on his health. He admits the pace "lately has started to get to me". He complains of knots in his stomach, of numbness in his hands, of exhaustion. "It's stress," he says. "Overwork."

But mention the peace pro-

cess and Mr Hume grows animated. Once pilloried for talking to Gerry Adams, he has finally managed to get Sinn Féin to the negotiating table. He believes David Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party will turn up for the full-scale talks next month because public opinion demands it and because the requirement that any settlement is put to the people of Northern Ireland in a referendum protects the party from any charge of "selling out". Mr Hume says that with a British Prime Minister for the first time making Northern Ireland his top priority, an agreement ending 70 years of strife is certainly "achievable", with serious dialogue "it could all happen fairly quickly".

Mr Hume has spent 30 years doggedly pursuing a resolution of this most intractable of conflicts. His life's work is tantalisingly close to fruition. But nominations for the presidency close on September 30 — just two weeks after the talks open — and becoming Ireland's head of state would mean swapping his role in those talks for a political straitjacket.

It is hard to imagine Mr Hume leaving Unionism and militant republicanism confronting each other at such a crucial juncture without his moderating presence. In the resulting Foyle by-election, moreover, the Sinn Féin chairman Mitchel McLaughlin could well win Mr Hume's Westminster seat, boosting Sinn Féin's hopes of overtaking the SDLP as nationalism's biggest party. But Mr Hume could conclude that having brokered the talks, the presidency would now be the best vehicle for advancing his vision for a "new Ireland".

His model is Europe's post-war development of institutions that recognise national differences but enable its peoples jointly to pursue their



John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, would be the first Irish president from the North

common economic interests. Similar institutions could unite Ireland's two traditions in joint economic effort — "spilling our sweat not our blood" — and a stable Ireland would be ideally placed to

attract inward investment. Mr Hume has very successfully attracted foreign investment to Londonderry. Last week *The New York Times* claimed that Mr Hume had told a private dinner at Dublin's US Embassy

that as president he would be "a super-salesman for Ireland trying to bring investment and jobs here". He refused to be drawn on that. Leaving the hotel after the interview, Mr Hume spots a

tabloid front-page featuring Diana, Princess of Wales, frolicking in a swimsuit with her new friend. He marvels at the constant pressure she endures. "How do they cope?", he asks with feeling.

## Mowlam criticised over prisoners

Unionists are angry that terrorists might be freed if the truce holds, our Chief Ireland Correspondent reports

MO MOWLAM, the Northern Ireland Secretary, provoked Unionist anger yesterday by suggesting that republican and loyalist terrorists could be released from prison early if the paramilitary ceasefire holds.

Peter Robinson of the Democratic Unionist Party denounced what he said was yet another government concession to keep the IRA's temporary ceasefire going. "Many in the security services will be wondering why they put their lives on the line to arrest these people if the Secretary of State is going to let them out before they've completed their sentences," he said. John Taylor, of the Ulster Unionist Party, also criticised the move.

Dr Mowlam told *The Sunday Telegraph* that she was

not yet ready to discuss demands that terrorist prisoners be freed but would consider that and other confidence-building measures designed to bolster the peace process if the ceasefire held.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, recently demanded the speedy release of all "political" prisoners during his first official meeting with Dr Mowlam. Sinn Féin began a campaign on behalf of the republican prisoners last week.

Unionist and republican sources also predicted that the IRA's infamous four-strong Balcombe Street gang, which carried out about 50 attacks in

18 months in the mid-1970s, would soon be transferred to jails in the Irish Republic. A little-noticed passage of the government's July 9 letter to Sinn Féin acknowledged republican concern about the repatriation of prisoners who had served more than 20 years in English prisons and said that Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, would shortly be reviewing the cases of "four such prisoners".

Dr Mowlam will decide at the end of the month whether the IRA ceasefire is genuine and Sinn Féin should be invited to full-scale peace negotiations beginning on September

15. A senior security source told *The Times* that after three weeks the ceasefire was holding very well. They had stopped targeting and surveillance as well as outright violence. The only worry was continued punishment beatings by groups that the IRA could control if it wanted to.

Northern Ireland's march-

ing season ended at the weekend with clashes between loyalists and the police at the annual Apprentice Boys parade in Londonderry. A hoax van bomb was also left on the route of the parade. The scuffles marred a day that had begun with the remarkable sight of Doncha MacNiallais, spokesman for the Catholic Bogside Residents Group, attending an Apprentice Boys' pageant commemorating the lifting of the siege of Londonderry in 1689.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Sea demo will not delay oil, says BP

Seven protesters from Greenpeace were spending their second night chained to a BP support vessel 70 miles west of Shetland. They boarded the *Steena Dron* on Saturday evening, arriving by inflatable dinghy. Greenpeace wants to end development of the new Foinaven oilfield, but BP said that the occupation would not set back production.

#### Unsafe coaches

Fifty buses and coaches were ordered off the road after police checks in the South and the Midlands. A further 120 had faults which must be repaired within ten days. One in eight vehicles were found to have faults.

#### LWT criticised

London Weekend Television should have warned the victim of a knife-point robbery before it broadcast a police interview they had filmed on her doorstep, the Independent Television Commission has ruled.

#### Heroin charges

Three men were charged in connection with the seizure of heroin worth £100 million from a Slovenian-registered lorry in Potters Bar, Hertfordshire. They are due to appear before magistrates in Hendon today.

#### Daughter dies

A 16-month-old girl was killed after she was struck by a car being driven slowly by her father outside the family's home in Finton, West Sussex. Police believe that the girl ran out in front of the car. She died instantly.

#### Oldest barbecue

Archaeologists claim to have found Britain's oldest barbecue near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. The scorched clay square, dating back 400,000 years, is thought to have been used to roast joints of deer, bear or even mammoth.

#### Clocking on

The world's largest steam clock has been unveiled on the waterfront at St Helier, Jersey. Modelled on 19th century paddle steamers that first brought tourists to the island, it cost £250,000 and is 50ft high.

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# When men were the unfairer sex

The philosopher John Stuart Mill rejected subjugation of women in marriage, writes Emma Wilkins, but most of his peers took dominance for granted.

NEW MAN existed even in Victorian times. When John Stuart Mill married Harriet Taylor in 1851, the philosopher and economist signed away the marriage rights enjoyed by his contemporaries and accepted by their wives.

Mill declared his opposition to the legal subjugation of wives to husbands. "I, having no means of legally divesting myself of these odious powers, put on record a formal protest against the existing law of marriage," he wrote.

But Mill's egalitarian approach was not that of the majority of Victorian husbands. Until late in the century, a man exercised complete legal control over his wife's person and property and enjoyed the right to sole guardianship of their children.

A youthful Florence Nightingale, when weighing up the virtues of one suit, decided she would find it impossible "to put it out of my power ever to be able to seize the chance of forming for myself a true and rich life". She never married.

The double standard under which it was considered acceptable for a man to visit a prostitute while a woman was expected to behave like the poet Coventry Patmore's *The Angel in the House*, was reinforced by the legal system.

Under the Matrimonial Causes Act of 1857, adultery by a wife was immediate grounds for divorce but a husband's infidelity was considered an offence only if accompanied by cruelty or desertion.

In 1870, the first of a series of Married Women's Property Acts was passed, giving women control over their own financial affairs. But the march towards greater sexual equality was by no means continuous: in 1899, a jury in the case of *Regina v Clarence* asserted a man's right to rape his wife even when he was suffering from advanced stages of syphilis.

Far from rebelling, many Victorian women seemed content with their role as keepers of hearth and home. Mrs Gaskell in *Mary Barton* blamed factory girls for "let-

ting their houses go all dirty, and their fires all out".

During the mid-Victorian period there was a general retreat of women from the workplace as the upwardly mobile working classes began to ape middle-class ladies of leisure. The trend was halted only at the end of the century when respectable job opportunities as teachers opened up with the growth of girls' secondary schools and, with the opening of department stores (Liberty's in 1875 and Peter Jones in 1877), as shop assistants.

The foundation of the Mothers' Union in 1896 did not seek to extend women's rights but to safeguard their interests at home. Protection against excessive childbirth, avoidance of paid employment and a

rigorous campaign for degrees at Cambridge began in 1896, prompting the *Pall Mall Gazette* to publish fears that all Eton and rowing men would go to Oxford — thus upsetting the boat race results.

The *Times* published a list of train timetables to help London-based graduates to get to Cambridge to vote against the admission of women. Cambridge did not admit women to full membership until 1948.

As the century drew to a close, the economic benefits of equality, which were to prove so vital on the outbreak of war in 1914, were beginning to be acknowledged.

As Miss Davies put it: "It can never be for the interest of society, in a purely economical aspect, to keep any class of its members in idleness. A man who should carry one of his arms in a sling, in order to secure greater efficiency and importance to the other, would be regarded as a lunatic."

secure home were primary concerns for all but a few. While Elizabeth Garrett Anderson — the first woman doctor — was battling her way into the medical profession and Emily Davies was leading the movement for women's education, a quiet revolution was in progress in Victorian households across the country: in 1870 the average number of children in families was six but by 1900 the figure had fallen to three per family.

The 1843 law forbidding the employment of children in mines was the first of several restrictions on child labour — reducing the economic benefits of large families for the working classes. Birth control was certainly practised, usually by *coitus interruptus*, and a large family became the object of plying glances.

When Margot Asquith, who married in 1894 and had two

children, visited Oswald Mosley's wife Cynthia after she had her first baby, she is said to have advised: "Dear child, you look very pale and must not have another baby for a long time. Henry always withdrew in time, such a noble man."

Middle-class women tried not to exceed two children. They were relieved when their *petit ami* arrived each month, although it tended to drive them to their beds for several days.

While most middle-class women remained little troubled by the women's movement, its impact on future generations cannot be underestimated. Thanks to the pioneering work of Miss Davies, who founded Girton College, Cambridge, in 1869, the higher education of girls was taken seriously for the first time.

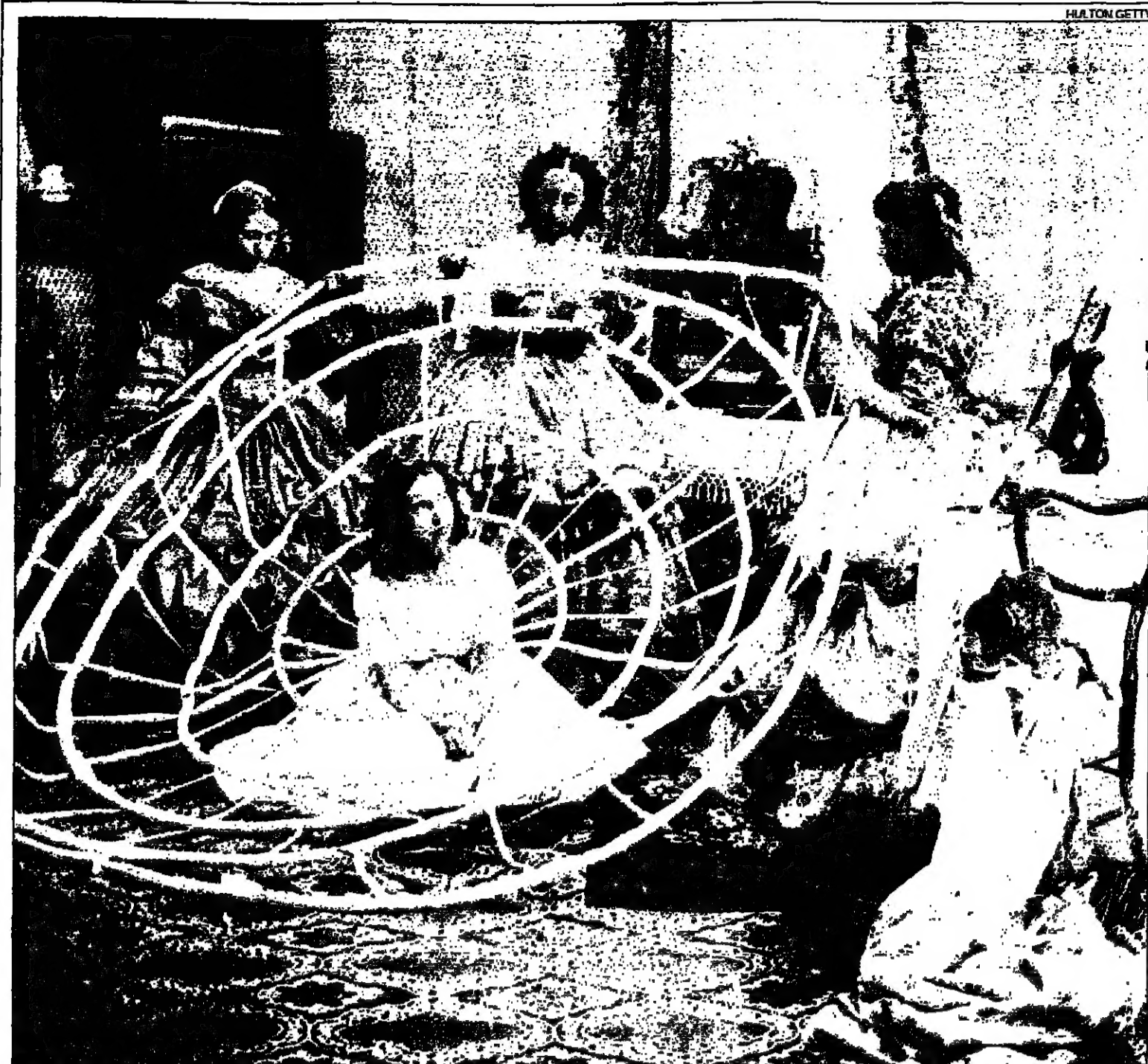
The first colleges for women at Oxford — Lady Margaret Hall and Somerville — opened in 1879, but women were still not admitted to degrees — even when a Girton undergraduate achieved the only first in her year in classics in 1887.

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Until the introduction of crinoline in the early 1850s, the huge bell-shaped skirts had been achieved with layer upon layer of petticoats

## From lace corsets to crinoline

New designs and materials gave women far greater freedom of movement

EVERY morning during their honeymoon at Windsor Castle, Prince Albert helped his young wife into her black silk stockings. It was a tricky procedure, which most ladies of rank left to the nimble fingers of their maids. Hoops at the stockings tops were joined with ribbons to a suspender belt around the waist. "It was the happiest time of my life," the Queen wrote in her diary.

The youthful Victoria's waist was then a svelte 18 inches — it would later expand to a magnificent 46 inches in the final years of her reign. While never greatly interested in fashion, the Queen was acutely aware of the need to patronise British goods.

A series of dances were held at Buckingham Palace in the 1840s and 1850s to support the ailing Spitalfields silk weaving industry. Two thousand guests were invited to attend the first ball costume in 1842 — all wearing fancy dress made from Spitalfields silk. The event was a great success, with the *Times* commenting later that there had been "an extraordinary improvement" in the industry. Following her husband's death in 1861,

the Queen wore black for 40 years. It was left to Princess Alexandra of Denmark, the elegant wife of the future Edward VII, to lead the way in fashion. It was partly her fondness for tailored suits and yachting outfits that ensured the popularity of these off-the-peg clothes. The introduction of crinoline in the early 1850s revolutionised women's clothing. Until then, the huge bell-shaped skirts had been achieved with layer upon layer of petticoats, the undergarments alone weighing 10lb. "It must have been like walking through treacle," says Sarah North, textiles curator at



Crinoline: lightweight

the Victoria and Albert Museum. The lightweight springy steel-framed crinolines meant women enjoyed greater movement, although a sudden gust of wind could prove embarrassing. Tightly laced corsets proved enduringly popular with women despite the deformities they caused, including distorted kidneys, withered

sign in America in 1851. British ladies were not impressed.

The popularity of croquet, lawn tennis and bicycle-riding from the 1870s onwards ensured that womenswear became more practical, although some Wimbledon players complained that their corsets were bloodstained after matches.

The Rational Dress Society, formed by Viscountess Harberton in 1881, protested against "any fashion that either deforms the figure, impedes the movement of the body, or in any way tends to injure health". But not all women wanted to be liberated from their corsets: "Stick to your stays, ladies, and triumph over the other sex!" urged the editor of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*.

□ The Victoria and Albert Museum, Old Brompton Road, London. Open Mon, 12.5.50pm, Tues-Sun, 10am-5.50pm. Dresses and undergarments worn by Queen Victoria can be seen at the Museum of London, London Wall, until November. Open Tues-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 12.5.50pm. Closed Mon except Bank Holidays.

## Life behind the green baize door

Emma Wilkins reports on the strict domestic pecking order

FOR Miss Jane Langton of Brodsworth, the day began with a soft knock on her door as the parlourmaid entered with a cup of morning tea. After drawing back the curtains, the maid curtseyed before leaving Miss Langton to her morning ablutions.

But Miss Langton was not the lady of the house nor even the square's daughter: she was the housekeeper at Brodsworth Hall, near Doncaster, south Yorkshire, where hierarchy within the servants' quarters was as strictly defined as it was between the working and upper classes.

Every evening after supper in the servants' hall, Miss Langton — housekeeper for 43 years from the 1850s — retired to her own sitting room with the butler and cook for putting up the "Pugs Progress", known as "Pug's Progress", left the scullery maid, parlourmaid and footmen free to gossip.

Each of the 15 domestics at Brodsworth Hall, a magnificent Italianate villa built between 1861 and 1863, had strictly defined duties. The scullery maid was responsible for preparing vegetables and washing up after meals; the still-room maid made milk puddings, jellies and other treats while the footmen shifted vast quantities of coal needed to heat the 16-bedroom house. A laundry maid was in charge of the linen cupboard, where ladies' and gentlemen's sheets were kept on separate shelves in accordance with Victorian views on propriety.

The Hall was owned by Charles Thellusson, the great-grandson of Peter Thellusson, a Huguenot banker who died in 1797, leaving a "fortune" of



The kitchen at Brodsworth Hall, left, has not changed since 1918. The hall's magnificent drawing room, right

£700,000 — the equivalent of £34 million today. The will was contested in Chancery for 50 years, inspiring Charles Dickens' *Jarvis* and *Jarvis in Black House*.

The vast Victorian kitchen, which dates from the time of Mrs Beeton, has remained almost untouched since it was closed after the First World War. Apart from the usual clutter of jelly moulds, sausage mincers and knife sharpeners, there are curios including bread moulds for making *mini-baguettes*. An early refrigerator with two compartments separated by a

large block of ice dominates one corner. It was topped up by the ice wagon from Grimsby once a month. Neither Mr Thellusson nor his wife ever set foot in the kitchen. But for the Victorian middle classes, a spot of culinary experimentation was considered a novelty. During seaside holidays to Ramsgate, Marion Linley Sambourne — wife of a junior *Punch* cartoonist — enjoyed nothing more than mucking about in the kitchen. Like all respectable middle-class Victorian wives, Mrs Linley Sambourne kept a cook at her home in Ken-

ton and had only modest success in the kitchen. "Busy in kitchen," she wrote in her diary in 1888. "Made pastry and we were able to eat it! Cooked two tarts, washed up, busy all morning."

When at home, Mrs Linley Sambourne's day usually began at noon with a light breakfast of tea and scrambled eggs followed by a shopping trip to Harvey Nichols or Bakers. She avoided Harrods whenever possible: "To Harrods, dirty place — though cheap," she recorded.

Mrs Linley Sambourne, whose husband Edward was assistant to Sir John Tenniel, the chief cartoonist at *Punch*, spent her days supervising staff. The cook, nursery and parlourmaids were frequently summoned to the morning room, where she would complain of their impertinence and laziness. One cook was dismissed on the ground that she was "hideous".

Choosing menus for dinner parties was a vital part of the daily routine. The diary entry for March 4, 1879 reads:

"Eight to dinner. Artichoke soup, fillets of salmon, leg of lamb, salad, new potatoes, stewed celery, Wild duck, watercress. Aldershot pud, plum pud. Soft roes of herring, biscuits, etc."

At one of the couple's less successful dinners, a promising young playwright blotted his copybook: "Rather slow dinner. O. Wilde sat next me and split all his claret all over my dress," Mrs Linley Sambourne wrote.

Mrs Linley Sambourne, who was greatly ambitious for her children, would have felt faint had she known that her great grandson, Antony Armstrong-Jones, was to marry Princess Margaret and honour the family name by giving his son the courtesy title Viscount Linley.

□ Brodsworth Hall, Brodsworth, near Doncaster. Open Tues-Sun and Bank Holiday Morn, 1pm-6pm. Tel: 01302-722598. Linley Sambourne House, 18 Stafford Terrace, London W8. Open until end Oct. Wed 10am-4pm, Sun 2pm-5pm.

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# Presidents pay lip service to the lens

Intimate portraits of  
America's First Couples  
show how Glaswegian  
clicked at White House

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A KISS is still a kiss, a sigh is still a sigh, even for First Couples. These remarkable photographs of the Clintons kissing and of the Clintons almost kissing were taken by Harry Benson, the Glasgow-born photographer who has made a name for himself on both sides of the Atlantic.

They are from an exhibition of Benson photographs, *First Families: an Intimate Portrait from the Kennedys to the Clintons*, that has just opened at Washington's most popular attraction, the Newseum, a lavish showcase for print and broadcast journalism.

White House aides told Benson he had exactly five minutes to photograph Mr and Mrs Reagan for the cover of *Vanity Fair*. He was to wait in an anteroom and the couple would drop by on their way to a state dinner.

Benson was not pleased about the treatment. As soon as the aides left, he and his assistant rolled up the carpet and put seamless white paper on the floor and walls to turn the room into a makeshift studio. Mr Reagan came in wearing a dinner jacket. Mrs Reagan was in a long black gown.

The photographer promptly showed some of the Scots' canny that has served him so well throughout his career. He flipped on a tape-recorder and the room was filled with Frank Sinatra's *Nancy with the Laughing Face*.

The aides were furious, but the Reagans beamed. They started to dance. Benson clicked away. Then he said: "I'd like a picture of you kissing, because yours is a love story."

Benson recalled: "I had in

mind a great Hollywood fadeout, like all those films I'd seen in Glasgow as a boy." The Reagans, both Hollywood stars before politics, willingly obliged. Then Mr Reagan looked at his watch and said he was keeping the President of Chile waiting. The shoot lasted six minutes.

The picture of the Clintons was snapped during their first presidential campaign in 1992 when Mr Clinton was taking a rare breather in a hammock. Benson said: "I like this picture because they don't quite kiss. That makes it more sensual somehow."

Benson complained in *The Washington Post* that there had been no recent intimate pictures of the Clintons because the White House press staff were keeping photographers out. In contrast to the Reagans, he said, the Clintons did not seem to be having fun. "If they are having fun and we don't see it, that's a tragedy. Why won't they let me in?" he asked.

The message found its target. The next day President Clinton wrote a "Dear Harry" letter to Benson, complimenting him on his work. It said he had captured the public and private lives of successive presidencies and his images were imbued with warmth. Holding out a promise of seeing Benson soon, Mr Clinton wrote: "I know that when I do show up, you will still find a way to tell me where to stand and what to do!"

Other highlights from the exhibition include George Bush in the pool with his dog, Jimmy Carter washing his tennis court, Gerald Ford doing the washing up. Betty

Ford stretched out on the grass, Jackie Kennedy peeking around a door, Rosalynn Carter sitting on her White House bed, and Richard Nixon making his resignation speech to the staff while his wife looks on, her eyes filled with tears.

Benson began his career photographing weddings in Glasgow and, after a stint at Butlin's in Ayr, he joined the weekly *Hamilton Advertiser*. He covered Scotland for the *Daily Sketch* before moving to London, where he joined the *Daily Express*. His eye for the unusual led to his work appearing frequently in *Photomews*, an *Express* feature that initiated the idea of devoting half a page to a noteworthy picture. Sent to America to cover the first Beatles' tour in 1964, Benson decided to stay. His work has received numerous awards.

Benson's wife, Gigi, is from Texas and they have two daughters, both actresses. Now 67, he said: "Newspapers and magazines are not about photography. They are about interesting pictures. I want to put a camera where it's never been before." His presidential exhibit will move in November to New York, where he lives, and then go on tour around America to all the presidential libraries and museums.

□ New York: A man who sent "disturbing" letters to Chelsea



Almost, but not quite: the Clintons caught on film during their first presidential campaign. "It seems more sensual somehow," said Benson

Clinton, the President's daughter, will appear before a court in Washington today charged with violating firearms regulations (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

Vladimir Zelenkov, 26, was arrested at his home in Elizabeth, New Jersey, after he tried to make contact with Miss Clinton, claim Federal agents.

The Secret Service is taking "very seriously" the possibility that someone might intend to stalk the President's daughter, who leaves Washington shortly for California, where she will begin a "pre-med" degree at Stanford University.

Security arrangements at her hall of residence are being

reviewed in the light of the latest incident. According to reports, Mr Zelenkov had written "unflattering" letters to Miss Clinton. His friends say that he has an obsession with her and that he often drives from New Jersey to Washington to "meet the President".

Federal agents arrested Mr Zelenkov last week on weapons charges after a tip-off led them to a 38-calibre handgun and 156 rounds of ammunition in a bank safe-deposit box on Pennsylvania Avenue, a stone's throw from the White House. Handguns are banned in Washington and Mr Zelenkov's licence entitles him to keep a gun only in the state of New Jersey.



Enterprising use of a tape recorder set up this shot of the Reagans at a six-minute White House session

## Safety system at Guam airport failed after error in software

FROM JOSEPH COLEMAN IN AGAÑA, GUAM

A SOFTWARE error crippled an airport radar system that might have prevented last week's fatal crash of a Korean Air jet in Guam, federal investigators said yesterday.

The system, called an FAA Radar Minimum Safe Altitude Warning, normally issues an alert if an aircraft is flying too low and officials on the ground can then alert the pilot.

Federal agents investigating the crash, however, said the system, at the island's Andersen US Air Force Base, was modified recently and an error apparently was inserted into the software.

George Black, a US National Transportation Safety Board investigator, said the software was modified to stop the system from giving too

many false alarms, adding: "The modification modified too much."

Korean Air Flight 801 crashed into a hillside overlooking Guam International Airport on Wednesday morning, killing 225 people. Safety board investigators are trying to discover the cause.

The investigators said the software error could not be pinpointed as the culprit in the crash, but a properly working system could have alerted the pilot to pull the jet to a higher altitude. "This is not a cause — it might have possibly been a prevention," Mr Black said.

The finding is a big piece in putting together the puzzle of the crash. Investigators think the pilot had full control of the jet at the time of the crash and are looking for clues to tell

them why he was flying so low just before the disaster. There were still months of work to be done, officials said.

Even without the warning system, the pilot had several other instruments on hand that could have told him that his aircraft was too close to the hillside.

"This is just one piece," Gregory Feith, the lead investigator, said. "Yes, it would have helped, but this is not, as we know it, the cause of the crash." He added that investigators were not even sure the system would have issued an alert in this case.

They were drawn to look into the system — and to tell the US Federal Aviation Administration, which detected the error — when an approach control operator told them he

had not received an alert before the crash.

The warning system was not the only piece of equipment which was not operating on Guam at the time of the crash. The airport's "glide slope" — which helps to guide the pilot to the runway — was out of action for regular maintenance. Many airports, however, do not have glide slopes and pilots use other methods for landing.

The altitude warning system is designed to cover a circular area with a radius of 55 nautical miles. However, since the software was modified, the system has covered only about a mile-wide circular strip that ran the circumference of that area. Flight 801 was not covered when it crashed. (AP)

## 'Outdoor smoking' ban goes

Washington: President Clinton has abandoned his derided plan to forbid outdoor cigarette smoking around the entrances to government buildings (Ian Brodie writes).

The idea was discarded as too draconian, the White House said. The decree would have forced workers who take a cigarette break from their jobs in no-smoking buildings to move at least 50ft from doorways before lighting up.

Widely seen as an extreme case of political correctness, the proposed measure was attacked by the Tobacco Institute, the lobbying arm of cigarette manufacturers, which said there was no evidence that outdoor tobacco smoke was harmful to passers-by, and by civil servants who smoke.

## Senator's killing raises fear of bloody Colombian poll

FROM VICTORIA BURNETT IN BOGOTÁ

THE assassination of Jorge Cristo, a Liberal Party senator, has raised fears that next year's Colombian presidential and regional elections will be dogged by political bloodshed.

Senator Cristo, who was to run for re-election next March, was shot dead as he got out of his car on Friday morning in Cúcuta, a border town near Venezuela. The National Liberation Army (ELN), one of Colombia's two principal guerrilla groups, has been blamed for the killing.

Senator Cristo, 67, was a close friend and staunch political supporter of President Samper, who called his murder an act of cowardly terrorism carried out by enemies of democracy and peace.

Politicians from all sides are concerned that Senator Cristo's death marks the start of a

bloody campaign by armed groups to scupper the election process. "I am alarmed by the wave of violence that has spread through most of the country in an effort to twist the elections," Juan Guillermo Angel, a Liberal candidate for the presidency, said.

Colombia, which is home to the world's biggest cocaine cartel and Latin America's

longest-running guerrilla war, has the reputation of being the Western hemisphere's most violent country, with 30,000 murders each year.

But the bloodshed traditionally peaks during pre-election periods as drug traffickers, left-wing rebels and right-wing paramilitary groups try to eliminate political opponents. The most notable victim was Luis Carlos Galán, presidential favourite in the 1990 election, who was shot dead in August 1989.

In recent months, guerrillas have intensified their decades-long war against the state, increasing kidnappings and bombing Colombia's main oil pipeline a record 45 times in seven months. The National Liberation Army recently declared all political figures military objectives.



## Brewer plugs ozone-hole fix other science cannot reach

FROM MARK FULLER IN AMSTERDAM

FREDDY HEINEKEN, the Dutch beer magnate, claims that the hole in the ozone layer could be repaired in as little as five years.

A study issued by Mr Heineken's private office says there are two feasible methods for closing the gap in the layer of atmospheric gases which protects the earth from harmful ultraviolet rays.

Mr Heineken, who is no longer involved in the day-to-day running of the brewery, the world's second largest, said: "Manufacturers of sun oil with factor-25 protection will be against it. But let's be serious, there are two promising methods to repair the hole."

One method, being developed by an American sci-

entist, aims to use negatively-charged droplets of water to break down chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), the agents believed to have caused the hole. The other, the brainchild of a Russian scientist, would deploy microwave generators to break down the offending compounds, which are used in refrigerator cooling elements and as propellants for aerosols.

Egbert Duursma, a retired oceanography professor, was sponsored by the brewer to compile the study last year. "Mr Heineken has been going on about repairing the ozone layer since 1990, but we academics ignored him. I decided last year it was about time we found out," Professor Duursma said.

"The methods appear feasible, but they are still only theories. If field experiments are a success, it will be possible to close the hole. The total cost would be about \$2 billion dollars (£1.2 million)," he added.

Professor Alfred Wong, the American plasma physicist, has demonstrated in his laboratory at the University of California that spraying negatively-charged droplets of water into the atmosphere can

break down CFCs, Professor Duursma explained.

His solution would involve the world's 55,000 daily commercial flights each spraying 1,000 litres of negatively-charged water into the atmosphere.

The Russian method, devised by Professor Igor Kossyi of the General Physics Institute in Moscow, involves the use of military microwave generators.

Both schemes are ready for field trials and are each seeking funding of more than \$500,000. The billionaire brewer, however, is not going to stump up the cash. "Sorry, I'm the sower [of ideas] rather than the reaper. I think Russia and America are better placed than myself to find the sums of money necessary," Mr Heineken said.

The study also highlighted unwillingness of science and industry to repair the whole by technical intervention. "Researchers fear they will lose funding and politicians are already committed to the Montreal protocol, which focuses on reducing the production of CFCs," said Professor Duursma.

Leading article, page 19

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## Bonn must keep bridges open to Poland as floodwaters recede

**B**OTH the German and the Polish Ambassadors have recently written to *The Times* to testify that there is no substantial friction between the two countries on helping flood victims around the River Oder.

A long catalogue of German aid, much of it spontaneously offered, suggests the diplomats are not being diplomatic. There has been some technical criticism of the Central Europeans — about the condition of the dykes and the emptying of reservoirs — and in the flood region German locals can be scathing about the floods and faces.

### INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

bobbing their way towards the German part of the Oder. But, on the whole, the neighbours are happy enough with each other. Instead of being

an unpopular Cold War frontier, only reluctantly accepted by many Germans for decades, it has become a way of demonstrating that the Germans, Poles and Czechs have a common interest that goes beyond Nato and European Union enlargement.

Geopolitical thinking is back in vogue in Bonn, so analysts have made much of how the flooding highlights the irrelevance of politically drawn borders. Geopolitics was discredited because one of its leading apologists, Karl Haushofer, was so closely associated with Hitler. Now it is regarded as a way of making sense of Germany's

role at a time of shifting frontiers.

The lesson of the Oder floods is more complex. Germany was indeed quick to help Central Europe, and did so in an imaginative way — its machines are drying out books rescued from Wrocław University. But Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, did not waste many words on it. Instead, he has focused on the flood as a way of bonding east and west Germany. Every day that sandbags are dropped on the banks, he is showing the sceptical, embittered easterners that West is not self-interested carpetbagger.

In this respect Poland cannot hope to enjoy a relationship with Bonn

that matches the Franco-German axis. For Paris, Germany is willing (though with more reluctance) to ditch or downgrade some of its national priorities. For Warsaw or Prague, the German commitment is less far-reaching. European entry negotiations will be an acid test of where Germany stands.

Claudio Magris's brilliant book *Danube* traced the river connections, established before and during the Austro-Hungarian Empire, that created a common culture stronger than the divisions imposed by Communist rule. The Oder, too, has a river culture that stretches back

centuries and colours the German attitude to Silesia. But the Oder is not the Danube.

**O**lder inhabitants of Polish river cities like Wrocław or Opole were transplanted from an eastern Poland awarded to Stalin. They had little in common with the Germans across the river, who were in any case brought up by their Communist regime, to be suspicious of the politically unreliable Poles. Since communism crumbled, there has been more cross-border competition — Silesia is trying to lure away Frankfurt's cus-

tomers for everything from bread rolls to striptease shows — than co-operation. The Oder operation marks the limits of geopolitics. Germany has been a good neighbour. There is mutual respect, and in many ways their relationship with Poland is more dynamic than the Franco-German friendship.

## Prodi worried by Germans' euro 'paralysis'

FROM DEBORAH COLCUTT IN FRANKFURT

ROMANO PRODI, the Italian Prime Minister, has given a warning that the political paralysis gripping Germany could be harmful to the future of the single currency.

In an interview with the *Welt am Sonntag* newspaper, Professor Prodi also proposed that Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, should be elected as head of the European Monetary Institute, which will become the European central bank.

"I do not like Germany when it is as paralysed as now," Professor Prodi said. "I am afraid of a Germany that is afraid."

Referring indirectly to a series of parliamentary logjams which have prevented Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) from implementing tax and pension reforms vital to reducing unemployment and boosting the economy, Professor Prodi said Germany needed to flex its political muscle once more. "Uncertainty is more than anything else harmful to the process of European integration," he said.

Professor Prodi added that some of Herr Kohl's colleagues were creating trouble

by making Italy's proposed admission to the currency union in the first wave in 1999 a "domestic political" issue before next year's German election.

Asked for his reaction to remarks by some CDU politicians that Herr Kohl would lose the election if Italy joined economic and monetary union, Professor Prodi said: "That is a serious and dangerous mistake. I have one goal — that Italy joins the currency union, and I have asked my country to make sacrifices for that. I have put my own career at stake. It is not right that the fate of Italy can be sacrificed for the careers of German politicians."

Professor Prodi said that the economies of Italy and other countries throughout Europe had suffered since the fall of communism because the Bundesbank raised interest rates to head off inflation after German unification in 1990. "It was OK that we had to pay for that, but now it is Germany's turn to understand the historical development," Professor Prodi said.

He refused to be drawn on a timetable for the launch of the euro, but Professor Prodi said

he was confident it would be soon. "I am sure the euro is our future. In my view, there isn't any other country in Europe that has demanded of its citizens more than Italy to make the country fit for the euro."

Meanwhile, Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, called on Herr Kohl to reshuffle his Cabinet ahead of the autumn 1998 election.

Without naming names, Herr Waigel told the *Spiegel* magazine that only ministers and state secretaries who want to serve in the new legislative period after the election should remain in their jobs.

"I advise Helmut Kohl to take the team into the election with which he wants to work after the election," said Herr Waigel. "He said he had a message for those hoping to stay in office until then. 'Friend, it would have been nice, but now we have to select a new team.'"

Herr Waigel's comments, which contrast with a statement issued by the Chancellor before he went on holiday last week that there would be no reshuffle before the election, indicate that the possibility has not been ruled out.



Princess Elena of Spain on a yacht during the King's Cup sailing competition off Majorca, where the Spanish royal family is spending its summer holiday

## Karadzic rival to form own party

FROM TOM WALKER IN BANJA LUKA

BILJANA PLAVSIC, the president of the Bosnian Serb republic, is to launch a new political party in her battle to wrest power from the shadowy forces of Radovan Karadzic, her predecessor.

Mrs Plavsic has been encouraged by Richard Holbrooke, the US special envoy, to oppose hardline Serbs loyal to Dr Karadzic.

Mr Holbrooke says that Nato's mandate under the Dayton peace accord must be

reinterpreted to allow international troops to disarm and arrest Dr Karadzic's clandestine police network.

By forming a new party, to be called the Serb Party of Republika Srpska, Mrs Plavsic hopes to woo the less fanatical wing of the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) from which she has been expelled. Milos Prica, Mrs Plavsic's head of Cabinet, said: "People are sick of the bribery, corruption and robbery."

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£5,000	4.75%	-	3.80%
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£50,000	5.85%	-	4.68%
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£100,000+	5.75%	-	4.60%
£50,000	5.25%	-	4.20%
£20,000	5.00%	-	4.00%
£10,000	4.50%	-	3.60%
£5,000	4.00%	-	3.20%
<b>Monthly Income Account</b>			
£100,000+	5.60%	5.75%	4.48%
£50,000	5.10%	5.22%	4.08%
£20,000	4.90%	5.01%	3.92%
£10,000	4.40%	4.48%	3.52%
£5,000	3.90%	3.97%	3.12%
£2,500	3.25%	3.30%	2.60%
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### Comoros conflict

Paris: The Comoros Government, according to a separatist spokesman, landed troops on the Indian Ocean island of Anjouan at the weekend to try to quell secessionist protests in favour of a return to French rule (Susan Bell writes).

The French Foreign Ministry refused to confirm the reports, saying that it had received conflicting information. France recently announced plans to decrease its influence in its former African colonies.

The protesters are envious of the comparative prosperity of the inhabitants of the neighbouring island of Mayotte, who voted by referendum to remain French.

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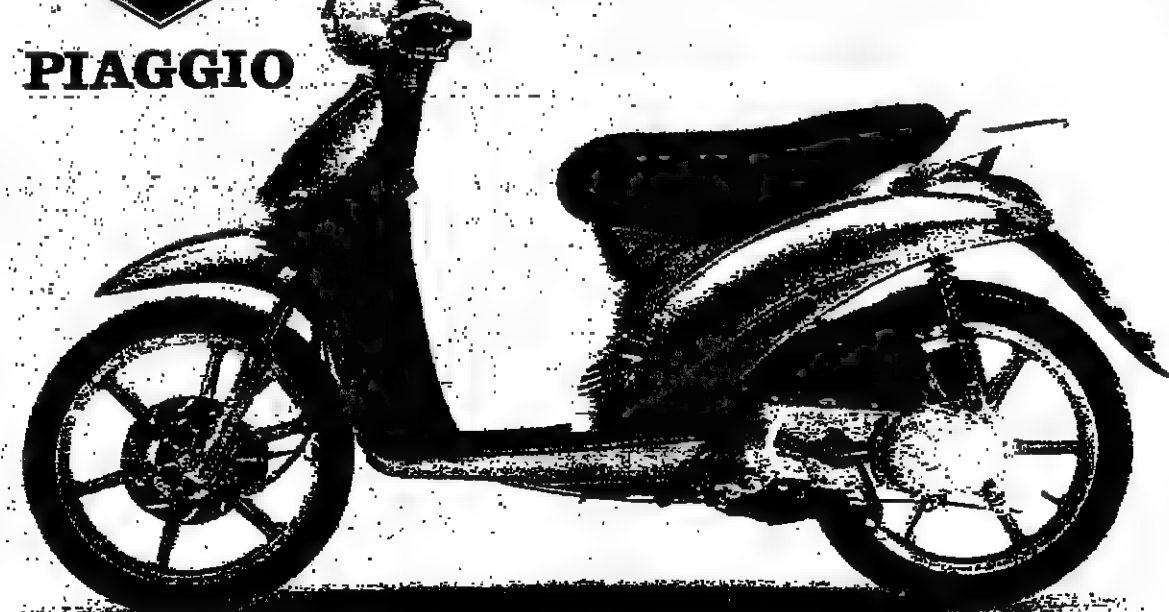
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The Vespa, a recognised style icon, was first created 50 years ago and more than 15 million have been sold worldwide. Today we feature the Liberty with an on-the-road price of £1,499. It has a 50cc two-stroke air-cooled engine and an easy twist and go automatic transmission so gear changing is unnecessary. The large 16in wheels with low profile tyres give a comfortable ride

over different road surfaces and a powerful 220mm front disc brake adds secure stopping power. It comes with Piaggio's unique three-year unlimited mileage warranty.

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Collect four tokens from *The Times* this week and send them with the entry form, appearing on Thursday, stating which scooter you would like to win. The closing date is Friday September 12, 1997. Readers must be over 16 to enter.





# Green alliance fights to kill off Roman Games

FROM RICHARD OWEN  
IN ROME

ROME is increasingly confident it will be chosen soon to host the Olympics in 2004. Preparations are in full swing and the Government has signed up Luciano Pavarotti to serenade the opening ceremony.

But with less than a month to go before the winner of the competition to host the Games is announced, influential Italian environmental groups have launched a last-ditch drive to undermine Rome's increasingly ebullient campaign, led by Francesco Rutelli, the left-wing Mayor. Leading members of the Green Party and Italia Nostra, the equivalent of English Heritage, said that Rome was unable to cope with preparations for the millennium, and its ancient, crowded streets "of unmatched historic and artistic value" were completely unsuitable either for thousands of millennium pilgrims or for an influx of tourists and sports fans in 2004.

The critics, under the banner "Campaign against the Rome Olympics", accuse Signor Rutelli, himself a former leading Green, of allowing Italy's big building firms to profit from huge "white elephant" projects, known in Italian as "cathedrals in the desert". Such projects include allegedly unusable stadiums for games such as baseball, not an Italian pastime, and "unwanted" housing for 4,000 journalists at Torre Spaccata, an inconvenient and rundown area on the city outskirts.

Signor Rutelli says he has every confidence in Rome's qualifications: "We will do a magnificent job." He has staked his prestige on projects designed to make Rome fit for 2004 and the Olympics four years later. The International Olympic Committee will announce early next month whether Rome's bid has beaten Athens, Stockholm, Buenos Aires and Cape Town.

But Romans are becoming increasingly irritated by the



way in which the Eternal City has been turned into a gigantic building site, with streets ripped up for new tram lines and the installation of underground fibre-optic cables in a bright blue-ribbed plastic casing which has become as much one of the sights of Rome as the Colosseum or the Trevi Fountain. The campaign to "stop this madness" has the backing of figures such as Carlo Ripa di Meana, the former EU Commissioner and a leading Green, and Federico Zerri, the leading art expert.

Signor Rutelli's opponents complain in a report entitled *Ten Good Reasons to Say No to the Olympics* that many of

**'The Olympics are profitable for sponsors, but the people are left with debts'**

the construction bosses who stand to gain from projects linked to the millennium or the Olympics, or in some cases both, are also on the official committees allocating contracts. Italy, they say, is repeating the errors of the 1990 football World Cup, when huge sums of public money were "squandered" on new stadiums, one of which, in Turin, is to be razed because of building flaws and high running costs.

Rome is being "choked by benzene and ozone pollution", the report says, and has inadequate public transport and rubbish disposal arrangements. In their attempts to impress the Olympic decision-

makers, Signor Rutelli and the "Rome 2004" Committee are alleged to have "grossly exaggerated" the number of hospitals in the capital and the efficiency of its telephone service, while underestimating the level of crime.

There is also controversy over plans to build an Olympic village to accommodate 18,000 athletes and officials at Tor Vergata, the suburban campus of one of Rome's three universities. Transport between the Olympic venues and sights in the crowded centre, such as the Vatican and the Colosseum, will be a nightmare, the report says. "The 2004 Committee fraudulently claims that it takes 23 minutes to get into town from the main airport at Fiumicino and 17 minutes from the second airport at Ciampino... anyone who lives in Rome knows that is a joke."

On finance, the critics describe Signor Rutelli's claim that the Olympics will "make Rome rich" as "propaganda". They say: "The Olympics are profitable for sponsors and merchandising, but the people are left with debts."

In a separate report, Italia Nostra said that work on a traffic overpass at the Castel San Angelo, on the Tiber embankment near the Vatican, had stopped because excavators had hit ancient foundations, "as archaeologists predicted all along".

Behind such charges lies the contention that Signor Rutelli is a Green "turncoat" who, before his election as Mayor in 1993, opposed the allocation of the Olympic Games to Italy (Milan was then the favoured site) on the ground that it would divert scarce resources from "real problems" such as urban decay and pollution.

Dario Fo, the left-wing playwright, suggested that perhaps Signor Rutelli really intended to use the Olympic village after 2004 to house Albanian refugees and would turn the unwanted "Media Village" into "an open prison for corrupt politicians and construction bosses".



Spaniards Abel Antón, right, the gold medallist, and Martin Fiz (silver) finish the world championships marathon in Athens yesterday

## Fans banned in Athens security purge

FROM PHILIP FANGALOS  
IN ATHENS

GREEK athletics fans have been barred from the past two days of the World Athletics Championships as city officials went into a near panic over security.

In a separate report, Italia Nostra said that work on a traffic overpass at the Castel San Angelo, on the Tiber embankment near the Vatican, had stopped because excavators had hit ancient foundations, "as archaeologists predicted all along".

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the sixth championships held over the last ten days of August. The authorities postponed all summer leave for more than 8,000 police officers, while heavily armed special forces units were assigned to help in the security of 2,000 athletes from 200 countries.

The Athens General Directorate called in the extra police and heavily armed special forces units to provide additional security at the airport as well as at the Olympic Stadium, where most of the events have been held, and at the capital's leading hotels and all other facilities where athletes and visitors have been present. It is understood that teams from countries that could have been the target of terrorist attacks, such as Israel and the United States, have been surrounded by even tighter security. Traffic police have covered all the main routes from

the hotels where the athletes have been staying, as well as those of visiting dignitaries and the world's media, to ensure swift journeys to and from venues.

Additionally, inspections have been strict for spectators entering the Olympic Stadium and the Marble Stadium, the venue of the opening ceremony and the marathons as well as the home of the first modern Olympics held in Athens in 1896.

The Greek efforts, which also encompass a clean-up of central Athens, the repaving and washing of roads and the much-needed planting of shrubbery, appear to have paid off at a time when the Swedish bid to host the 2004 Games suffered a setback after last week's bombing. Most observers see Athens and Rome as the two leading contenders to host the 2004

Olympics. There is a minority of Greeks opposed to the 2004 Olympics, largely on cost grounds, but the majority is strongly in favour, especially after the national disappointment that came after losing to Atlanta over the 1996 bid. Infrastructure projects are well under way in the Greek capital, including the construction of the Athens metro and a new international airport at Spata, near the capital.

Greeks are often the butt of European jokes about their organisational skills, but Athenians may have the last laugh next month after hosting a relatively well-organised world championships which should, in turn, strengthen their bid to host the 2004 Olympics.

Athens athletics, page 24

## Bitter Atlanta still licks its wounds

One year on, many in the city that held the last Olympics regret the whole affair, reports Ian Brodie in Washington

The FBI began wondering if the explosion was the work of an outraged vendor.

Billy Payne, the property lawyer who almost single-handedly persuaded the International Olympic Committee to choose Atlanta, has not received the national hero status accorded to Peter Ueberroth, who made \$225 million on the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles and donated it to sport.

The Atlanta Olympics are said to have broken even, although the latest balance sheet had a contingency re-

serve of nearly \$40 million that could become a surplus if unused. Mr Payne now earns \$300,000 a year to round up new business as a vice-president at Nations Bank, a company with which he fostered a close relationship before and during the Games as his first sponsor to pay \$40 million. The bank also took the chance on granting a \$300 million line of credit to Mr Payne's organising committee.

From his office on the fifty-fifth floor of the bank building, he looks back nostalgically to

the intensity of Atlanta's efforts and reckons they were "worth it". He said: "I think the legacy of the Games is the spirit of the people, the longing to experience that kind of environment again, the happiness and celebration that were a part of it." He even suggests that, in the years to come, Atlanta might try to bid for the Games again.

There was a spectacular postscript to the Atlanta Olympics on Saturday when, with a series of controlled dynamite charges, the old stadium next door to the new Olympic Stadium was toppled to make way for a car park. The Olympic Village where athletes were housed has been converted into halls of residence for college students.

JOHN KUNTZ / REUTERS



Once part of the Olympic Village for the Centennial Games, the buildings have now been converted by Atlanta into halls of residence for college students

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## Singing volcano

NOTHING is more exasperating than a low-pitched hum whose source escapes identification. Picture, then, the frustration of Dr Jacques Talandier of the French Atomic Energy Agency and Dr Emile Okal of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, when they discovered on some old seismic records the evidence of a loud rumble echoing through the oceans. The extraordinary feature was that the sound waves were purer than a note from a musical instrument, completely lacking overtones.

The signals they found, recorded by French seismic stations in Polynesia, consisted of a single frequency, typically in the range between three and 12 cycles per second. Was it an animal, or a naval experiment? They looked at both possibilities, but dismissed them.

The sounds typically lasted from a few seconds to several minutes, *Scientific American* reports, and were especially noticeable between 1991 and 1992. An earthquake would have produced shorter sounds, a whale much higher frequency ones.

The first break came when they were able to pinpoint the source of the rumbles to a poorly surveyed area of the South Pacific. Old charts indicated that there was an underwater volcanic ridge in the area. A visit to the area last year showed that the ridge had a flat top, rising to within 400 feet of the



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

surface. Samples showed that although no eruption was occurring at the time there had been activity in the recent past.

There are lots of seafloor volcanoes, but they do not usually generate the rumbles identified in the seismic records. The two scientists wondered if the shallow depth might allow bubbles of steam to form and rise through the water, and consulted Dr Bernard Chouet of the US Geological Survey. He ran a computer simulation to see if a rising cloud of bubbles could behave as a resonant cavity, acting as a huge organ pipe.

He found that indeed it was possible for sound waves to bounce to and fro between the sea floor and the surface at a resonant frequency which was independent of the sideways extent of the cloud. So the frequency would remain steady. Overtones would be produced, but the bubbles of steam would be likely to damp out all but a very limited range of frequencies.

So is this the explanation? Maybe, say Drs Talandier and Okal, who published it in the *Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America* under the heading "Volcanological Speculations". *Scientific American* suggests that they should have started celebrating earlier, because the rising column of bubbles in a bottle of champagne might have given them the vital clue.

## Healthy forest has its roots in sharing



IN A forest, some trees stand in the sun and others in the shade — yet all seem to flourish reasonably well. Some ingenious experiments in British Columbia have shown that an underground network of fungal hairs links the trees together and is used to carry a flow of carbon — the energy currency of plants — between them.

Dr Suzanne Simard and colleagues from the British Columbia Ministry of Forests, planted birch, fir and cedar seedlings in groups of three. To label the carbon made by each, they briefly surrounded the seedlings with plastic bags filled with carbon dioxide containing different carbon isotopes. The plants took up the carbon, incorporating it into the carbohydrates they made.

When they analysed the carbon in the different seedlings two years later, they found, they report in *Nature*, that fir seedlings in deep shade had obtained a tenth of their carbon from birch seedlings, through shared fungi. The cedars had gained nothing, because they do not share fungi with either of the two other species. The results show that trees can co-operate as well as compete, and emphasise once more the value of a diverse forest.

## Another saintly miracle dyes



DOCTOR Luigi Garlaschelli of the University of Pavia delights in debunking the treasured relics of the Roman Catholic Church. The latest to fall under his scrutiny is the blood of St Lorenzo (St Lawrence), martyred by the Roman emperor Valerian in 258. Yesterday was the saint's feast day, so the congregation in the church near Naples where his blood is stored will have awaited the annual miracle — its liquefaction.

Dr Garlaschelli has examined the glass phial containing the blood, and reports in *Chemistry in Britain* that it consists of three layers of material, only the middle one of which liquefies, producing a clear ruby red fluid. This really happens, but how?

He tried shaking, which had no effect, and then gentle heating. At a temperature of 30°C the middle layer duly melted, suggesting that the miracle is a simply matter of temperature. He believes that it is not blood, which would long ago have lost its colour, but a mixture of fats, waxes and a red dye.

The movement of the relic from its usual sheltered niche to the altar for the feast day would perhaps be enough to provide the small increase in temperature that is needed for the "blood" to liquefy.



Above: Haeckel's drawings of how fully fledged organisms develop from different embryos. Below: how they really look



## An embryonic liar

Fundamental research on embryos has been exposed as false, affecting evolutionary studies, says Nigel Hawkes

One of the most famous biologists of the 19th century has been accused of being a scientific fraud, a faker who has muddled the waters of embryology for generations. As famous in his day as Darwin, Ernst Haeckel was a giant among German biologists. His fame was so great that his popular work *Weltrtsel* (The Riddle of the Universe), published in 1899,

sold 100,000 copies in its first year. One follower wrote that his name "will become a shining symbol that will glow for centuries. Generations will pass, new ones will arise, nations will fall, thrones will topple, but the wise old genius of Jena will outlast all".

In fact, Haeckel's ideas about evolution did not last long at all. But one has proved pervasive, emerging again and again in successive editions of textbooks, and underlying much of the thinking about how a fully fledged organism develops from a simple embryo. Now a lecturer at St George's Hospital Medical School in London, Dr Michael Richardson, has shown that even this, Haeckel's last bequest to science, is deeply flawed.

"This is one of the worst cases of scientific fraud," says Dr Richardson. "It's shocking to find that somebody one thought was a great scientist was deliberately misleading. It makes me angry."

His attack, in the August issue of *Anatomy and Embryology*, centres on some drawings originally published by Haeckel in 1874. They purport to show that as embryos, all species look remarkably similar: fish, salamanders, turtles, chickens, pigs, cows, rabbits and humans all share life as the same simple shape, developing their characteristic form later.

This point was central to Haeckel's view of evolution, summed up in the ringing phrase "ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny". What this meant was that ontogeny — the process of development of an individual organism — is a rerun, fast-forward, of the evolution of the species as a whole. In other words, our development in the womb recapitulates the rise of man from primitive creature to lord of creation.

His theory necessarily implies that in their early stages embryos should be closely similar or identical. Haeckel believed that evolution worked by adding layers of complexity to the basic embryonic pattern. "During its rapid evolution," he wrote, in 1896, "an individual repeats the most important changes in form evolved by its ancestors during their long and slow palaeontological development."

Haeckel's drawings survive in a modified form in books as authoritative as *Gray's Anatomy* and a textbook for medical students, *Developmental Biology*, by Dr Scott Gilbert of Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania.

Dr Richardson says everybody who studies medicine sees these pictures, but that he always felt there was something wrong. He could find no evidence to prove it, so he set

out to accumulate it. "Modern embryologists don't do comparative work," he says. "They work on chicks, or mice, or toads, or zebrafish. They don't compare one embryo with another — that's been out of fashion for half a century."

He assembled an international team of collaborators, collecting marsupial embryos from Australia, Puerto Rican tree frogs, snakes from France and an alligator embryo from Manchester, among others.

He found that contrary to what Haeckel had asserted, the embryos of different species are not all the same. In fact, they are so different that the drawings Haeckel made could not possibly have been done from life. "What he did was to take a human embryo and copy it, pretending that

the salamander and the pig and all the others looked the same at the same stage of development. They don't."

There is only one word for this, and Dr Richardson doesn't flinch from using it. "These are fakes. In the paper, we call them 'misleading and inaccurate', but that is just polite scientific language."

He believes that exposing the forgery is important because Haeckel's ideas have enjoyed an unexpected renaissance as a result of discoveries in molecular biology. Geneticists have found that many species share the same set of genes, called homeobox genes, which are responsible for the early stages of development. If they share the same genes, suggesting that they share the same shape does not appear

unreasonable. Many embryologists therefore subscribe to the wreckage of Haeckel's theory.

Dr Richardson has presented his results at conferences, where they have caused a stir. "German delegates tend to be upset that their hero is under fire, while some Americans worry that criticising Haeckel will give ammunition to the anti-Darwin creationists. I, personally, think that biologists just need to bring this into the open so it doesn't fester," Dr Gilbert accepts the case against Haeckel, and says he will take the drawings out of the next edition of his book.

The crucial issue is that embryos do evolve, precisely the opposite of what Haeckel asserted. That, says Dr Richardson, could have a considerable effect on evolutionary studies, since under Haeckel's influence little effort has been made to study evolutionary change at embryonic level.

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# A Princess who deserves romance

**D**iana, Princess of Wales, once described herself as being as thick as a plank. This is patently false. She may not spend her evenings analyzing Proust, but any woman who can manipulate the world's media to the extent that they will fall over their chequebooks for a set of fuzzy and inconclusive pictures of her in the company of her new man is clearly in possession of a fair degree of nous.

The build-up was brilliant. On holiday at Mohamed Al Fayed's villa in St Tropez, she made sure the cameras had ample opportunity to capture her in leopard-print swimsuit, an air of physical condition and looking 36, better than she has done for years. Then she sailed out to the launch carrying the British royal ratapac, the so-called *crème de la scam*, and told them: "You are going to get a big surprise at the next thing I do."

Just the plot became too utterly vacuous, she next announced a forthcoming visit to Hong Kong to support a hospice charity, and a trip into the still-dangerous territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina in pursuit of her anti-lavandines campaign. The tabloid appetite for news of the Princess is permanently insatiable, but it had now been honed to a particularly keen edge.

So when, last week, an Italian *paparazzo* offered a set of grainy long-lens pictures of the Princess embracing a hunk of Arab manhood, the bidding became frenzied. The photographer is reportedly £3 million better off, despite the fact that, had the key picture been developed at Boots, it would have come back with one of those fault stickers saying "Out of focus".

**T**he story is perfect. The Princess's latest catch, if catch he be, is the son of the man who owns our top grocery store and who helped to bring down the last Government by the judicious use of brown envelopes, but who has still failed in his ambition of owning a British passport. He cannot but be grinning from ear to ear that his child has captivated the mother of the next king but one.

Dodi Fayed belongs to that cast of characters who inhabit the pages of *Hello!* magazine; his is the world of Mediterranean yachts, apartments in London — where he entertained the Princess to dinner on Thursday — New York and Los Angeles, and B-list celebrities for company. He is 41, divorced, and known for

squirring the sort of not-quite-famous women referred to in Hollywood as "arm candy". Tiny Rowland, arch enemy of the Fayeds, observed (from the deck of his own yacht in Monte Carlo) that the pair were well suited, on the ground that both were light on intellectual wattage.

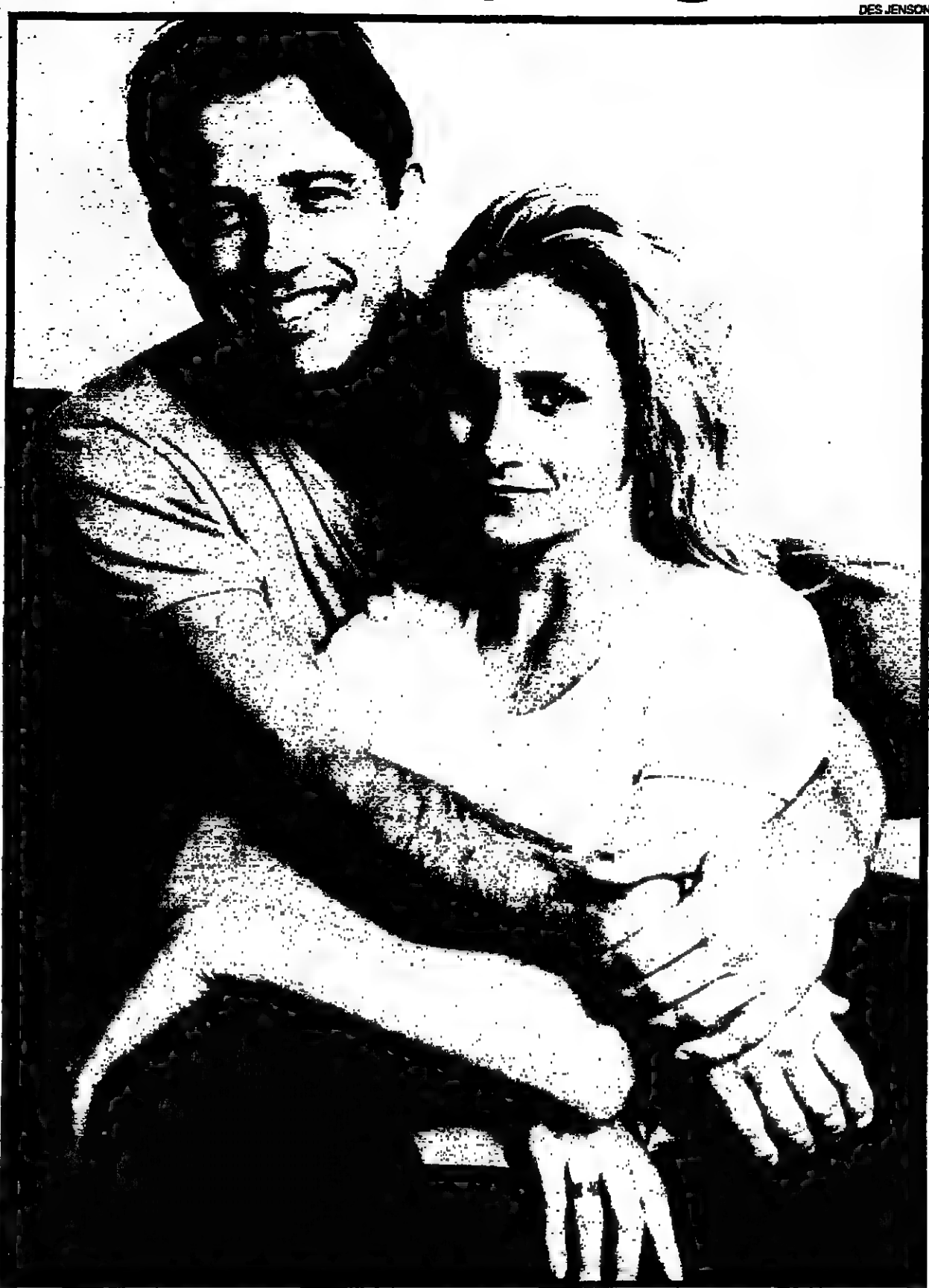
Tabloid speculation, meanwhile, is on a mission to Mars, with assertions that Dodi is off to buy a ring and quotes from "friends" that this is the real thing at last. How frightfully useful to have friends who keep the press posted on one's private life: it saves the trouble of doing it oneself.

Whatever the truth of the matter, the Princess deserves a fulfilling physical and emotional relationship after the chill and cheating of marriage and her brush with the scoundrel James Hewitt. Dodi's world is somewhat removed

**Meeting of two worlds**  
from the one that she left, although it is one where they have the means to keep intruders at bay. It was a world that Jackie Kennedy fell into with a degree of relief; marriage to Aristotle Onassis gave her security both financial and physical.

The Princess claimed recently that her children had urged her to live abroad to escape constant press hounding. But she is more than happy to use the press when it suits her, in her admirable landmines campaign as well as in her Riviera swimsuit appearances. Given that she is the mother of the future monarch, she is never going to be left alone by the media, even if she were to slip permanently into Dodi's *demi-monde*.

Everyone will wish the Princess well, although the cynical may wonder if she is merely cocking a snook at her past connections, and the concerned may worry that the rebound is not the best moment for good judgment. If the earth moves for her, we shall all hope that it is not as a result of her treading on one of her own emotional landmines.



**Bel'époch: Melissa and Martin during the campaign**

**I**t has been a good summer for Melissa Bell, 24-year-old daughter of Martin Bell, the new MP for Telford. As her father's chief adviser, she was the undisputed heroine of the general election, his Secret Weapon, against the Hamiltons. Against the odds, he snatched one of the country's safest Tory seats. Now Melissa has bagged her own prize, a 37-year-old former Army major, Peter Bracken. They are to marry next summer — "Dad needs time to recover from the shock," says Melissa, flashing a smile over her champagne glass.

reappearing. "I knew he had a girlfriend. I went to the trouble of finding out."

They had what Peter calls "small strategy meetings" in the pub. But any suggestion they might have flirted while on-duty is treated with disdain. Like Martin Bell, Peter is earnest and conscientiously principled. He once wrote to *The Guardian* condemning the Army's attitude to blacks, gays and women.

Melissa knows comparisons will be drawn. Peter is neither the opposite of nor exactly like my father. They are both quite serious in some ways. Melissa

They became engaged in June—barely two months after meeting—but there happened to be a half-bottle of champagne in the fridge at Martin Bell's house in Hampstead Garden Suburb, where they are staying. Melissa has spent

the week writing financial reports for a London press agency, Peter has just landed a job with a City recruitment consultancy. It is a Friday evening, but there is no sign of either of them winding down.

While still taking a phone call, Peter tells how he arrived in Tattori eight days before the election, a volunteer from Miliband, Labour's HQ. He insists he had no thoughts of seducing the candidate's daughter. "I'd seen pictures of Melissa when I was summarising the news at the Bank, but to tell you the truth, I didn't know she would be married by the way

"She was always very nice to us, but apparently she didn't like children very much. Dad felt his home was our home. He wasn't going to get pushed around and I appreciate that. If I'd felt shut out from my father, it would have been awful. Because I saw both my parents so much and felt so close to both, things were different."

Melissa had studied Politics at Warwick University

It was some hours before Melissa and Martin returned from canvassing, and even then she took her time introducing herself. So inouciant was she that he didn't bother to gather intelligence on her private life.

"But I did," says Melissa.

next morning. I was on the plane." Arriving an hour after Bell's encounter with the Hamiltons on Knutsford Heath, she found "a very shaken Dad", so she quit her job and headed his campaign.

Her public adoration of her father was a boost to the campaign. "I guess a daughter always adores her father if she's got a halfway decent one. You just generally have a bond with your dad, more than with your mum," she says, as though this were incontrovertible.

ible. "I think I do have an exceptional father. There was never any question of pretending to be closer than we were, though I don't see enough of him actually."

She made up for that during the election campaign. Contrary to reports, Peter did not get much of a look in. "We had embryonic feelings for each other," he says. The turning point came when Peter went with Melissa to a hostile meeting with 100 Hamilton supporters in Great Bud-

break-up has made her take marriage more seriously: "I wouldn't have accepted unless I knew I would make it work. I never thought marriage was important, but then you meet the person and you *know*."

**P**eter recognises, however, that they were both at turning points. "Melissa was wondering about her future, as I was mine. There was a sense of adventure about it, and that affected our outlooks.

least. It's a lot when you think about it, but we look and act the same age."

Melissa wants to marry in Taton: "Just because it seems appropriate." There is a beautiful church in Great Budworth, where her father now lives, but the vicar made his pro-Hamilton, anti-Bell feelings clear in a Parish newsletter. "So that's clearly out of the question, unless we can oust the vicar. You can't do that as easily as ousting a politician."

has still failed in his ambition of owning a British passport. He cannot but be grinning from ear to ear that his child has captivated the mother of the next king but one.

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ly something ...  
Ten minutes later,  
Martin arrived. "In  
15 minutes the  
room was com-  
pletely converted."  
And Melissa had  
acquired a second  
hero.

They spent the  
weekend after the  
election together,  
then Melissa re-

Peter says the marriage proposal, as Melissa was cooking pasta in his Bristol flat, was unplanned. "We were hanging round the kitchen on an ordinary Friday evening."

Was she surprised? "Yes. It had crossed my mind, not that he would ask, but that I'd like him to ask. It took me a few seconds to work out whether he was serious. He said, 'Marry me.' Two seconds later, I said, 'Yes.'"

As a child of divorced parents, she might have been expected to think about it longer. She says her parents'

grandfather one day." Afterwards, they called Melissa's mother, who was holidaying in Normandy. "She'd met Peter by then and was very enthusiastic about the idea."

Peter called his mother. He has no memory of his father, who left when Peter was three, and there has been no contact. "His lack of curiosity I find breathtaking," says his mother. "His father is not even aware that one of Peter's sisters, Linda, has died of cancer."

It is in stark contrast to Melissa's relationship with Martin, which Peter dubs "charming". The two men have bonded. Melissa says: "Dad came home from the bank the other day mumbling he'd been asked to pay off my overdraft. He told Peter this was the official handover."

It is impossible not to wonder if Peter is another father figure. Melissa puts the age gap down to chance. "I've never had a boyfriend as old as Peter — always under 30 at

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# Flower of Scotland in finest array

John Russell Taylor visits the Edinburgh Festival's big visual art shows, dedicated to two of the country's most famous painters and one remarkable collector

For once, in this, the 50th anniversary Edinburgh International Festival, several of the major exhibitions presented by the National Galleries of Scotland are intimately bound up with art in Scotland. And the most prominent of them, that devoted to Sir Thomas Raeburn at the Royal Scottish Academy, reinstates a major Scottish artist to his rightful place as a major artist.

Raeburn (1756-1823) is described by the organisers of the exhibition as "by far the best-known of all Scottish painters". That may well be so, but if so it is perhaps not saying much for the fame of Scottish painters in general. Outside Scotland, at least, the response of many cultivated people might well be: I know the name, but remind me of an image. Nowadays the quickest reminder would probably be the graceful, bizarre picture of the Rev Robert Walker, the Skating Minister, progressing determinedly on one foot across a frozen loch. Contemporaries would have been astonished at our familiarity with this painting, so untypical of Raeburn and so obscure until 1949, when it was bought by the National Gallery of Scotland and caught the imagination of the world, becoming the gallery's virtual trademark.

Contrary to what this painting might suggest, Raeburn was primarily a portraitist of the (locally) great and famous, and portrayed them in a pretty traditional fashion. But contrary to what that might suggest, he was full of humour and mischief. He could summon up the grand manner when he wanted to, but was very happy to paint such notables as General Francis Dundas and his wife at the end of a chess game which has evidently not gone in his favour, as well as painting children and dogs, all of whom he takes seriously and uncritically on their own terms as idiosyncratic individuals.

Another famous image (although more to the Victorians than ourselves) is *Boy and Rabbit*, his stepson Henry Raeburn Inglis with friend, which he chose to send to the Royal Academy as his diploma

piece in 1816 when informed that the self-portrait he had originally sent in was, being a self-portrait, not acceptable.

These two pictures, which hang side by side in the show, might be taken to indicate the range of Raeburn's responses to the human figure. The boy is all charm and tenderness, the man all sternness and dignity, determined to impose himself for a critical London audience as a figure of eminence and importance. Miraculously, the boy is not sentimental, the man not pretentious: in both, Raeburn is the painter first, the publicist a long way after. Of course he has designs on the spectator — what painter does not? — but the designs are realised by purely artistic means which included, in the case of the self-portrait, re-angling the figure on the canvas at a late stage in order to give it more weight and substance.

The most extraordinary thing about Raeburn is his painterly handling of light. His colouring is not brilliant, tending towards the reddish, brownish shades, but this has its artistic uses, tending to bathe his paintings in an autumnal, sunset glow.

In most of the paintings notionally placed outdoors this is literally true: the magical double portrait of Sir John and Lady Clerk of Penicuik has an almost elegiac quality derived from the sunset in the background, while Raeburn's hunters, like Robert Ferguson of Raith (with a splendidly characterful dog) and *The Archers* — Robert Ferguson again with his brother Ronald — appear to have set out for a little early evening shooting. Even the Drummond children in the famous triple portrait at the dawn of their life seem to be at the dusk of their day.

If, at the outset of his career, Raeburn was much inspired by Reynolds, technically he very rapidly moved on. Later, the ease and freedom of his handling is at times almost impressionist. If one looks at the hands of his sitters, for instance, the way that they are sketched in with a few telling strokes looks back to someone like



Sir Henry Raeburn's portrait of Sir John and Lady Clerk of Penicuik (1791), one of the works in the Royal Scottish Academy's tribute to "the best-known Scottish painter"

Hals, but also looks astonishingly forward to another of the National Galleries' chosen subjects this year, Sargent. The Sargent exhibition, *Portrait of a Lady*, is just next door in the National Gallery itself, and finds its Scottish connection in the lady in question, Lady Agnew, whom Sargent's 1892 portrait made famous much as it made him famous.

The show is what we have come to think of as a typical Timothy Clifford extravaganza. Clifford, supremo of the Scottish National Galleries, believes passionately in context: showing the paintings along with furniture and applied arts of the time, embowering the Carrara sculptures of Canova in flowers no less dazzlingly white than they. This time one has a

feeling that the scent of tuberose should be piped in to complete the illusion of turn-of-the-century life for the rich and famous.

But a serious point is made. There has been something of a reaction against Sargent's sybaritic celebration of sheer luxury in his painting, but for a true painter what matters is whatever turns him on artistically, whether or not it accords with current prejudices and puritanisms.

The show gathers together a stunning collection of Sargent's society portraits from all over the world to recreate a whole scene, that of the Agnews and their friends, and to show how Sargent used his brilliant technique to

transmute what was quite possibly vulgar and ostentatious in its time into absolutely timeless art.

The other Scottish patron celebrated for this festival was much more unassuming: what interested Gabrielle Keiller (1908-1995) was the art of others rather than building her own image. Fame she had anyway achieved for herself on the golf course: her interest in modern art did not begin to flourish until she was in her fifties, when she was inspired by a visit to Peggy Guggenheim's collection in Venice in 1960 and the presentation of Eduardo Paolozzi's work at the Venice Biennale the same year.

But once the passion was kindled, it was complete and obsessive. By the time of her death, she owned more than 70 works by Paolozzi,

and one of the most extensive and significant private collections of the Surrealists and their relations in the world. All of these have been left to the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, and are on show now as a unity before being integrated into a collection which already contains most of the Roland Penrose Surrealist collection and some choice works that once belonged to Edward James. This makes the Edinburgh gallery one of the best equipped in the world for Surrealist works of art.

The interesting thing about the Keiller collection, apart from its size (more than 170 works) and quality, is the way that the collector's interests ranged well beyond the central Surrealist corpus, but always within the same recognisable

taste boundaries, so that the connections between the vision of classic Surrealists such as Ernst, Dalí, Magritte and Giacometti and that of, say, Paolozzi, Bacon, Burra and even John Davies are clear for all to see. It is no doubt also typical of the collector that the nearest her collection comes to a portrait of herself is a Warhol portrait of her favourite dog.

● Raeburn, sponsored by Ely, is at the Royal Scottish Academy until Oct 5.  
● The Portrait of a Lady, sponsored by GNER and Orient-Express Hotels, is at the National Gallery of Scotland until Oct 19.  
● Surrealism and After, sponsored by McGregor-Donald Solicitors, is at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art until Nov 9. Inquiries for all shows: 011-624 6320

## High camp on a high wire

ONE of the best games for aficionados of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe is spotting the show that will become the acclaimed hit.

Acrobat is put together by nine Australians who bill themselves as Australia's most outrageous circus company. En route to performances in Edinburgh, they treated visitors to last week's tenth Stockton International Riverside Festival to an electrifying display of tumbling skills, tight-rope walking and trapeze work. This is high camp in a big top, sheer physicality interspersed with raw Aussie

humour. Artaudian in influence, it shocked and mesmerised, unleashing an atmosphere of barely controlled danger, enhanced by heavy rock music and dramatic lighting.

The Stockton festival hosts the biggest gathering of street entertainers in Europe. "You could rob the Post Office during the festival and people would applaud," says Anvil Springstein, stand-up comic and compère-at-large. For ten days Stockton-on-Tees is awash with more than 200 performances by dozens of acts from around the world. With funding of more than £500,000, admission prices are low, and many of the events are free.

Festival director Frank Wilson spends months travelling the world to find the right combination of talents. Two Belgians, Warre Warre, patrolled the streets in synchronised blippers. Brazilians Osadia gathered crowds as they performed free psychedelic hairdos; and the motorised pram of Parisian Charlie Ennor harangued the crowds and chased ambulances. Accoules Sax from Marseilles swung the crowds in their direction either in concert or just ambulating along the High Street, six brass and two percussionists, defying anyone to remain still. El Papi Free from Spain featured a stream of highly accomplished jugglers, musicians and acrobats. Canadian magician Jeff Bradley manipulated both the crowd and a number of di-

verse objects with a personable patter.

The festival's first music commission was a collaboration between Brit award nominee John Serrano and Northumbrian pipes doyenne Kathryn Tickell, a meeting of jazz saxophone and traditional

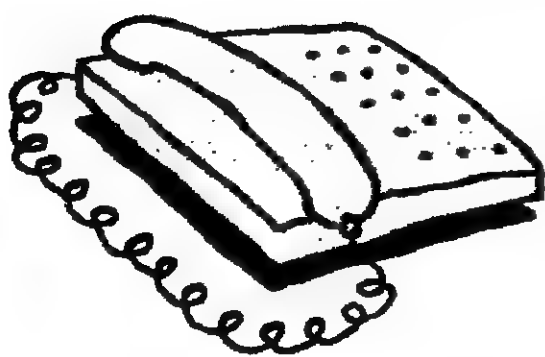
music. Also specially commissioned was DC Events' *The Street of the Moon*, a floating spectacular on the Tees based on Robert Graves's poem *The White Goddess*. This featured a floating swan, a man in a clockwork universe, a volcano defended by dragons and Japanese drummers, a fruit bowl containing an Indonesian gamelan orchestra and a pink iceberg squirting water. Obviously.

DAVID WADMORE  
● Acrobat is at the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh, until Aug 14

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I am not too early to sense the look and vision of Tony Blair's Government. The first 100 days were a roar of energy and ideas. Part of the enjoyment of living in a developed culture is predicting its future, and the purpose of this Government, it seems to me, is no less than to change, and change utterly, the culture of this country, and recharge its character.

On the agenda in politics, in society at large, in education, business and the arts, is the whole perception of what our culture could be. Since the beginning of May, enough markers have been laid down to make it clear that there is a determination to root out what is failing, complacent and rotten in our system and reinvent a country whose greatest epochs — first Elizabethan, high Georgian, mid-Victorian — have always been times of the most positive change. Blair and his colleagues are aiming, I think, at no less, and their determination is to seek the release of blocked energies, new opportunities for young people, devolution and the promotion of independence to declare a bonfire of the old vanities and take an unafraid look at new realities.

## Is Jerusalem being built here?

In my opinion, they are there for at least ten years: no law says that with due care they could not be there for 20 or even more. This is time enough to redirect the people and the culture which, over the centuries, has only languished when badly led.

There is a time to be a touch euphoric, but this is not that time. Any sober assessment of the overall strategy, zest and focus of the past three months would have to recognise that there is a new prospect here, one backed by a well-organised discipline. One hundred days is not too slight a time to judge. Most great novels have great opening chapters. All great music has a great first movement.

Like many others I was apprehensive before the election. I wanted a Labour victory so badly that I feared to want it too much and so bring bad luck. It was not until the days and weeks afterwards that the full excitement burst through. There was, of course, relief that a degenerating bunch had gone, but

there was much more than that. There was a genuine countrywide upsurge of almost visceral pleasure. Let's go, let's move out of the mire. Time for lift-off.

In that seed, in that concentrated time of hope lies, I think, the possibility of the deep change which must come about if our addition to the decline is not to become the brand of our culture. Again and again in physics, for instance and in music to take an allied example — it is the quality and fury of the originating moment which shapes the future. The Labour majority of 179 gives Blair such a moment.

So where could this Government

### MELVYN BRAGG



set on treating the nation as one. Paradoxically, but logically, this means that it realises that the One is a sum of its parts. Scotland, Wales and the Bank of England have benefited from this already and these are, I think, just the opening shots in what seems both an act of faith in the basic intelligence and traditional, al-

though often atrophied, flair of the British peoples. It is also a clear-minded declaration of a policy that this is the finest way to let loose energies and talents suffocated for so long under bureaucracy, stifled by too long under an under-productive hierarchy.

But it would be far too glib to say that Blair is just turning away from a Socialist culture and a market forces culture to an opportunity culture. Some of the best that can be afforded by the Antee culture remains; some of the necessary bracing of market culture also remains and can be built on. But the distinctive aspect of this newness, and that which caused heads and hearts to lift after the election, is the excitement in the call to arms through opportunity.

We have had our excuses — and good ones — for failing in this century. The depredations of two world wars, the loss of an empire, the switch of industry and manufacturing to the Pacific rim; the

literary is long. The century has also seen a huge obstinacy on all sides to face the present reality. We have not deigned or dared to look outside ourselves for too long.

This Government is clearly devoted to change all that. What we may look back on after 20 years is a country which finally said farewell to old restrictive practices and hollow customs charming in retrospect but better left in memory and museums. We may, by then, live in a country which has found a fresh and inventive way to establish new roots in a soil which has nourished so many different successful Britains before this one.

Months before the election, Blair pointed unequivocally to the solution — education. The future is for those with the best-trained minds. Intelligence properly cultivated is needed now for survival as well as for prosperity, as much as ships and soldiers and aircraft were needed in the past.

It means, in effect, bringing about a profound change in the consciousness of this country. But that, it seems to me, is exactly what both the electors and the elected decided to do just over 100 days ago.

## Leopard changes his spots

You are a forthright ham-maker with a plumpness problem and rock-bottom self-esteem. One day a handsome, vaguely genial chap drops into the London shop in whose back-room you are slogging your life away. He compliments you on the "exquisite simplicity of your costume" and then, accidentally, your purpose runs into you in the street.

Before you have recovered from a lunch date with him, you have learnt that he is a diplomat who was "with General Gordon in Calcutta" and he knows that you recently got a nice nest-egg from your aunt. Thereupon he asks you to marry him at once.

Do you: a) call the police? b) tell him to get lost? c) suggest a period in which you and he get to know each other before signing away your future? d) ask a trusted friend for advice? e) marry him without telling your family or anybody else and go honeymooning in West-

ton-super-Mare? The little Claire Rayner I keep at the back of my head thinks a), b), c) and d) are reasonable options. But Karoline Leach's two-hander requires e) to be the choice. Leach does all she can to make this plausible. She sets the action in 1912, emphasises the need and innocence of Susan Penhaligon's Adelaide and makes it clear that Paul Nicholas's George Love is an experienced wooer and conman. But she also creates problems that make it difficult to swallow what is a sensitively written and formidably acted first play.

### THEATRE

Skip a paragraph if you prefer not to know what happens in Weston. I won't give away the final twist, but I must reveal that Adelaide refuses George's marital advances, twice his plan to exit rapidly with her loot and her aunt's brooch, senses an insecurity behind the smooth swag, confesses that she herself is the victim of a repressive, incestuous father, and suggests that, instead of leaving, her husband joins her in setting up a haberdashery shop on the Cromwell Road. The frightened, glib seamstress is thereby transformed into a blend of Shaw heroine and, well, Claire Rayner. "I doubt if any dramatist could pull off so speedy a switch and lines like (of Adelaide's stoutness) 'I eat because there's an emptiness inside me that never goes away' and 'You made me happy for the first time, I want to do the same for you if you'll let me' do not aid overall belief. A 1990s writer with a kindly, healing nature but a decidedly sentimental side is speaking through her character. And yet let me admit that I found parts of *The Mysterious Mr Love* sharp and enjoyable. Penhaligon succeeds in projecting sweetness and doughty decency; and Nicholas does even better with cold-hearted charisma. Here is a blandly ingratiating cad who thinks of his women victims as a series of "ins", jumps from restaurant windows to avoid paying bills and snatches romantic bunches of roses from cemeteries, and can switch on



Formidable duo: Susan Penhaligon and Paul Nicholas in Karoline Leach's new play

an earnest charm at will. But Nicholas is better at giving us the grandiloquent but sleazy fantasist than suggesting that somewhere deep inside him is a rejected, embittered slum-kid who develops an unwilling sympathy for Adelaide. Don't blame him or

his director, Bob Tomson. His author has not given him enough time, space or lines to ensure that the emotionally improbable becomes psychologically true.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## The sound of maturity

Prom concerts by the National Youth Orchestra always have a special atmosphere, and Saturday's was no exception. For one thing, it was being conducted by the NYO's president, Colin Davis; for another, the organisation is celebrating its 50th birthday. Of course, the personnel remain as young as ever, and it was remarkable how these 150 teenagers, the cream of Britain's young orchestral-instrument players, performed a decidedly univocal sequence of Tippet, Vaughan Williams and Sibelius like an adult orchestra.

Well, almost. There were moments in Tippet's *Ritual Dances from The Midsummer Marriage* when the collective sound could have been more incisive. And increasing the size of the orchestra, with ten horns to match septuple woodwind, only increases the chances of the horns fluffing something. But Davis's vast experience of Tippet told in the way he shaped a broad performance full of detail. The composer was present to share the applause.

A very grown-up account of Vaughan Williams's Sixth Symphony followed, taut from beginning to end. The excellent brass section seized every opportunity in the brazen march, and the woodwind was on blinding form in the fierce Scherzo. Yet all seemed to understand the work's elegiac tone, and the bleak Moderato was underpinned by uncommonly subtle timpani playing. In the empty desolation of the finale, the strings sustained tension right to the end, only to have their good work undone by the hyper-clapper who intruded throughout the evening.

The NYO was especially fortunate to be playing Sibelius's First Symphony under such a distinguished champion of the composer as

### BBC PROMS

NYO/Rustavi Choir

Albert Hall/Radio 3

Davis, who communicated his special feeling for the music to the players. The opening movement had natural flow, with all its strands gathered into climaxes of dark, looming power, and once again the brass were on glowing form. But there was no lack of subtlety here or in the dusky Andante, not really a slow movement at all.

The strongly nationalist flavour of this programme was nothing compared with that of Friday's late-night Prom, which found Georgia's Rustavi Choir lined up on the Albert Hall stage sporting silver daggers over their tunics. But as the leading exponents of Georgian folk music, this 14-man group proved not only quite harmless but astonishingly versatile, capable of earthiness but also delicacy.

Georgia possesses one of the most sophisticated of folk-music traditions, so there was no lack of variety on the programme. But the "sad songs of Georgia" that so captivated Pushkin are perhaps the most memorable, and highlights here included the haunting lament *Daigvanes* and the jolly *Nana*. The Georgians' sound, less sonorous than their Russian counterparts, is almost guttural, and several of the songs featured yodel-like melismas over close, shifting harmonies. In a varied programme that went back as far as the 14th century and also included drinking songs and two instrumental interludes, the only ingredient that seemed to be missing was dance.

JOHN ALLISON

### This week in THE TIMES



#### ■ OPERA

Mark Morris directs Rameau's opera, *Platée*, at the Edinburgh Festival  
OPENS: Tonight  
REVIEW: Wednesday



#### ■ DANCE

American choreographer Twyla Tharp presents three new works at Edinburgh  
OPENS: Tonight  
REVIEW: Wednesday



#### ■ FILM

Jason Patric races to the rescue in the action sequel, *Speed 2*  
OPENS: Friday  
REVIEW: Thursday



#### ■ POP

As good as his hype? Oasis unveil their third album, *Be Here Now*  
RELEASED: Next week  
REVIEW: Friday

PLUS: Britten is fêted at the Proms, and this year's V97 festival welcomes Blur

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# The return of the sophist

Roger Scruton on the danger of philosophies sold from the shelf

The ancient Athenians, who roved far and wide in the Mediterranean, saw the variety and absurdity of man's religions. After centuries of successful trading, the local gods and festivals could no longer satisfy their religious need. Their spiritual hunger was exacerbated by the stress of city life, by the constant threat of destruction, and by the grim vision of totalitarian Sparta: the vision of Greeks living without light or grace or humour, as though the gods had withdrawn from their world.

Into the crowded space of Periclean Athens came the wandering teachers, selling their wisdom to the bewildered populace. Any charlatan could make a killing, if enough people believed in him. Men like Gorgias and Protagoras, who wandered from house to house demanding fees for their instruction, preyed on the gullibility of a people made anxious by war. To the young Plato, who observed their antics with outrage, these "sophists" were a threat to the very soul of Athens. One alone among them seemed worthy of attention, and that one, the great Socrates whom Plato immortalised in his dialogues, was not a sophist, but a true philosopher.

The philosopher, in Plato's characterisation, awakens the spirit of inquiry. He helps his listeners to discover the truth, and it is they who bring forth, under his catalysing influence, the answer to life's riddles. The philosopher is the midwife, and his duty is to help us to be what we are — free and rational beings, who lack nothing that is required to understand our condition. The sophist, by contrast, misleads us with cunning, fallacies, takes advantage of our weakness, and offers himself as the solution to problems of which he himself is the cause.

There are many signs of the sophist, but principal among these are: mumbo-jumbo, condescension and the taking of fees. The philosopher uses plain language, does not talk down to his audience, and never asks for payment. Such was Socrates, and in proposing him as an ideal, Plato defined the social status of the philosopher for centuries to come.

No one should doubt that sophistry is alive and well. Many of today's gurus are sophists: Derrida, Foucault, Heidegger, Lyotard, Rorty, to name but five. But those that are alive make their profits through the university system, giving lectures that pretend to be educational. The pre-Socratic practice, of offering private guidance to the bewildered and curing their troubles by squeezing their purse (a practice which creates a powerful motive to leave bewilderment behind), has been the monopoly only recently of the psychoanalysts.

But we have entered the post-modern era — the era when beliefs and faiths are available off the shelf. More and more people are turning to philosophy, a kind of

Which? report on available options. And what is the use of guidance if it cannot be packaged for the consumer, as the personal ointment to his personal wound? Louis Marinoff, Professor of Philosophy at New York's City College, has been first off the mark in exploiting the new cultural climate. If philosophy is to be marketed successfully, then people must pay for it. For people value goods according to the price required to obtain them, and in a consumer culture only what is costly can console.

Professor Marinoff compares his goods favourably with those of the psychoanalyst. Discussing a recent case in which he treated a woman haunted by her dead brother's spirit, he said: "Psychotherapists would say she is recreating the guilt triggered by her brother's death. But it may be possible, according to some belief systems, that there was something there. I am there to help the client understand her belief system."

The remarks were reported in the *New York Observer*, and may not be verbatim. But they tell us much about the professor's vision of his trade. No longer does the philosopher

A 'belief system' will be offered, dressed in suitable mumbo-jumbo

doubt, in order to persuade the client that her money has been well invested, the favoured "belief system" will be dressed up in suitable mumbo-jumbo, and priced at a rate that will make it psychologically necessary for the client to persuade herself that she is being cured.

Small wonder, then, that Professor Marinoff's wheeze is catching on, and New York's psychotherapists are hurriedly lowering their fees in response to the only competition they have had since the collapse of the old religions.

The sophists are back with a vengeance, and are all the more to be feared, in that they come disguised as philosophers. For, in this time of helpless relativism and subjectivity, philosophy alone has stood against the tide, reminding us that those crucial distinctions on which life depends — between true and false, good and evil, right and wrong — are objective and binding. Philosophy has until now spoken with the accents of the academy and not with the voice of the fortune teller.

When Plato founded the first academy, and placed philosophy at the heart of it, he did so in order to protect the precious store of knowledge from the assaults of charlatans, to create a kind of temple to truth in the midst of falsehood, and to marginalise the sophists who preyed on human confusion. Little did he suspect, however, that he was providing the sophist with his ultimate disguise.

A Royal remarriage would highlight the conflict between Church teaching and contemporary culture

There is an insoluble conflict between religion and modern culture. The essence of Christian teaching is that marriage is indissoluble. Two passages in the Gospel of St Matthew make this clear, one in the Sermon on the Mount and again, later, when Christ's teaching is challenged by the Pharisees. In Matthew, chapter 19, there is this key passage: "The Pharisees came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, have ye not read that He which made them male and female? And said, for this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh. Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."

The Pharisees felt that this was too rigorous. "They say unto him, why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? He said unto them, Moses, because of the hardness of your heart, suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, whosoever put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and who so marryeth her which is put away doth commit adultery." This is the basis of the marriage doctrine of all the major Christian churches and has been so for nearly 2,000 years.

When the Archbishop of Canterbury said in Australia that a decision by the Prince of Wales to remarry, which he does not expect, would cause a crisis in the Church of England, he was not just talking about a local difficulty. Since the sexual revolution of the 1960s, there has arisen a complete contradiction between the Christian view of sexual

# Flying without the celestial pilot

morality and the culture of the Western world. This is where the difficulty lies. To the Christians, marriage is indissoluble and adultery is a sin. To the world at large, marriage can be dissolved on a "no-fault" basis and adultery is a legitimate social option.

Most modern people now regard the Christian view of marriage as unrealistic and cruel. Good pastoral priests do, indeed, support and care for those whose marriages have broken down, or whose sexual lives are troubled. But they do not equivocate on the doctrine. Gilbert Burnet, who was the Bishop of Salisbury in the reigns of William and Mary and Queen Anne, provides a good example of what was the classical Anglican view. "Persons in wedlock, that suffer their affections to wander after other objects, lose the happiness of a married state: come to neglect their families, and grow careless of their children; besides that, a train of lying and falsehood follows every step they make in these vicious courses... not to mention those loathsome diseases that they do contract and communicate..." That is the old pragmatic Anglican view of adultery: a much more profound spiritual attitude can be found in St Augustine's Confessions, written more than 1,000 years earlier.

Whether one takes it at the pragmatic or the spiritual level, modern culture no longer accepts these Christian conclusions. About a third of all

marriages in the United Kingdom end in divorce. The law was changed by the last Government, removing all concept of fault. Marriage is now almost the only contract which can be broken at will. Yet marriage is not the only issue of sexual conduct in which the law has been radically changed. Since the 1960s, homosexual relationships have been legalised, and the age of homosexual consent will probably be lowered in this Parliament. The change in the abortion law was even more extreme. Fifty years

ago procuring an abortion was a felony, punishable by penal servitude for life; when the death of the mother resulted, that was murder, and punishable by death. Now the United Kingdom allows, in effect, abortion on demand. The liberal sexual revolution, part good, part bad, has been almost total.

William Rees-Mogg

This is a huge cultural experiment of a worldwide character. We read about it every day in newspapers. Adultery in high circles has become the running story of this year's silly season, ranging from senior politicians in Britain and Germany, to the

President of the United States, to the Royal Family. Yet the revolution is incomplete in two ways. Adultery may have been accepted in practice by many individual Christians, but it is not accepted in the doctrine of the Christian churches. The public attitude still combines permissive and censorious elements in an unpleasant way.

For newspaper readers, adultery still seems to be a subject of extraordinary fascination. The *Sunday Mirror* is said to have sold out yesterday, with nine pages of rather blurred photographs of Diana, Princess of Wales, kissing or not kissing Mr Dodi Fayed. The pictures were taken at long distance by telephoto lenses, and they show it. Nevertheless, the *Sunday Mirror* paid £250,000 for them, and the price seems to have been justified in terms of sales.

None of us controls the culture in which we live. So far as that is concerned, we are all flying in a jumbo jet with a blind pilot to an unknown destination. Many of our beliefs and values are shaped, beyond our knowing, by the country, generation and class of our birth.

Takes, as an example, the life of Dodi Fayed. He is not as unpopular as Camille Parker Bowles used to be, but he risks her unpopularity. Like her, he has intruded on a dream. The ancient Greeks knew that flirting with goddesses leads to trouble.

He, too, is a victim, as well as a beneficiary, of this fashionable cul-

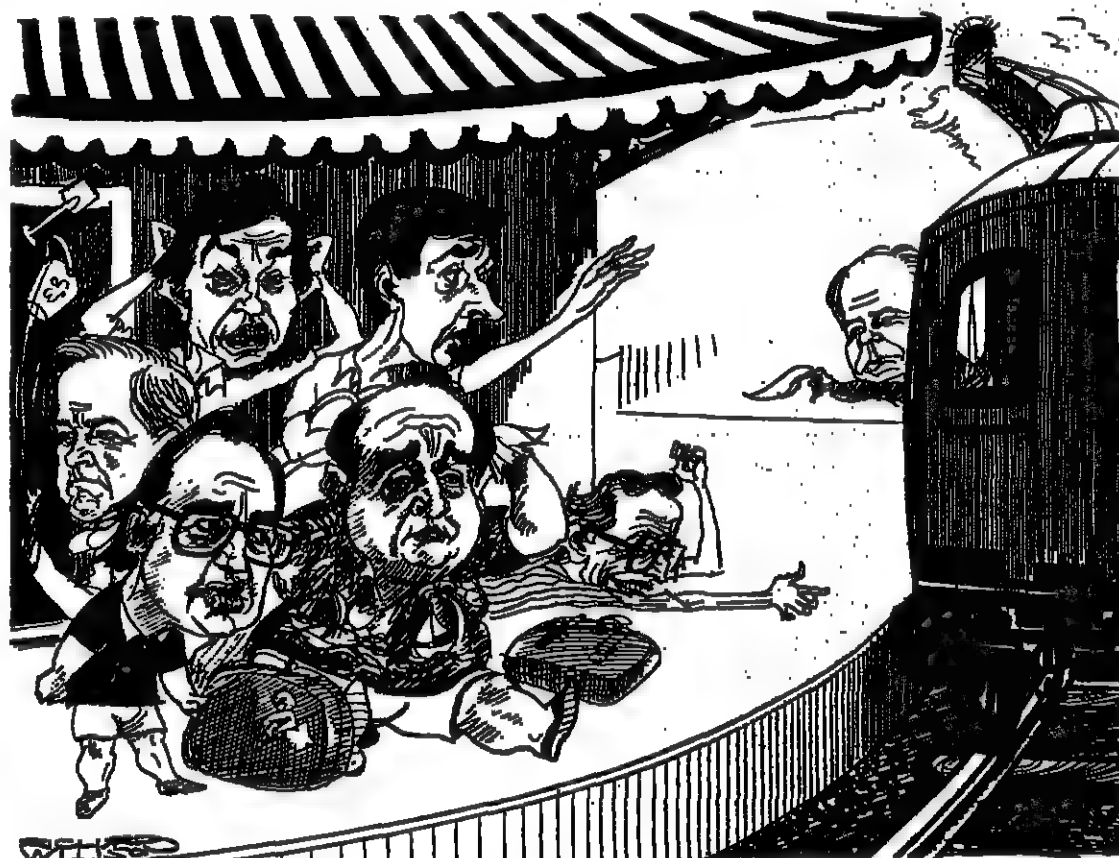
ture. He is the son of a self-made Egyptian billionaire, who has realised his own dream of owning Harrods, an odd dream to have. Such men often spoil their children and have very high expectations for them — a difficult combination for the child. Dodi has helped to make some good films — he must be a man of some sensitivity; his friends describe him as kindly and gentle; he is now over 40; he has had one marriage, which lasted less than a year, and has dated many film stars. They are notorious for being unhappy women, neurotic almost in proportion to their stardom. He is now dating Diana, the most celebrated woman on earth, and has to do so under the eye of the paparazzi. I feel sorry for her: I feel sorry for him. I do not know what Dodi Fayed wants in life, but I suppose he wishes to be happy. Divorced men in their early forties, with a lot of money and a string of glamorous relationships behind them, very seldom are happy — they more often feel lonely and unfulfilled.

Old Testament prophets such as Jeremiah gave sometimes rather hysterical warnings that the pleasure-seeking culture contains the seeds of its own destruction. "They were fed as horses in the morning; every one neighed after his neighbour's wife. Shall I not visit for these things? Saith the Lord." Christians can protest against the onward march of modern times; to his credit Dr Carey does so.

Yet the march of modern culture continues. The history of earlier civilisations suggests that a pleasure culture does, indeed, destroy the happiness which is its objective; cultures which depend upon duty tend to be more creative. But we are not the pilots of our cultural aircraft: we do not know how long it will go on flying, nor in what wilderness it will eventually land.

# Tories who missed the train

The old guard should go with dignity, says Mary Ann Sieghart



The sun is filtering on to the flagstones of the vine-clad verandah, the Orvieto Classico slips down coolly, and a post-prandial siesta beckons. For the first time in a year, husband and wife have had a decent conversation and the children have seen more of their father in the flesh than on TV. Yes, thinks the Shadow Cabinet minister, there is more to life than politics.

If only he would act on it. For a few short weeks, he will read novels, relax by a pool and spend ten minutes at a time not thinking about work. But, on his return to SW1 in September, he will be sucked back into the Westminster whirlpool. There will be the details of devolution to denounce, the party conference speech to prepare, and — almost humiliating of all — an almost Maoist act of self-criticism to write for *Whippersnapper* Hague, listing the Shadow minister's achievements and failures over the summer.

Can it really be worth it? What do Michael Howard, Peter Lilley, John Redwood, Stephen Dorrell, Sir Brian Mawhinney, and — for goodness' sake — Sir Norman Fowler, think they are doing? Most successful politicians would not be human if they did not harbour a secret desire to lead their party. But Sir Norman and Sir Brian Mawhinney know that they will never be leader. And Messrs Howard, Lilley, Redwood and Dorrell have now tried and failed to be. The best that they can hope for is a big ministerial job if and when the Tories regain power. Yet even if they do, is the prize of, say, the Chancellorship really worth five or, more likely, ten

years of toiling in Opposition? Opposition for them is a dreadful comedown. No more ministerial car; they have to wait for a bus or a Tube. That quietly efficient team of civil servants has been replaced by half a researcher and a dog, crammed into a chaotic House of Commons office. The *Today* programme and *Newsnight* no longer clamour for their presence. They are reduced to answering their own telephones. Worst of all, they can no longer make things happen.

Labour ministers were mocked for the amount of time and energy they expended preparing for Government. Actually the investment has paid off: only a few have been tripped up by their inexperience. Tory ministers, by contrast, spent no time preparing for Opposition: quite understandably,

since the psychology of politics demands that only victory can be countenanced.

Their wives, though, did think about Opposition, and a few secretly hoped it would materialise. For the first time in memory, they expected to see something of their husbands. They had sacrificed married and family life for ten, 14 or 18 years, putting up with the evenings alone and the tyranny of the red boxes at weekends, the early-morning phone calls and the late-night absences.

They had endured the vicarious hurt when their husbands were publicly abused. Some had gone out to work against their will to support the family and pay the school fees. All had subsumed themselves to the demands of their husbands' careers. But now what? The Shadow minis-

ters' salaries are half what they were in Government and they cannot supplement their income outside unless they return to the backbenches. The hours are only marginally less gruelling. The men are depressed and, if anything, require even more emotional support from their wives.

Before the election, it looked as if the Tories would be able to make capital out of Labour's inexperience. We all had visions of authoritative Shadow ministers towering over their pygmy counterparts at the dispatch box. Divested of power, though, the Tories' authority has shrunk. And many of the Labour ministers have quickly grown to fill their jobs.

At the same time, the election of William Hague as leader has

changed the terms of Conservative politics. In one generational leap, he has made the party's *ancien régime* look stale. While the old guard have remained loyal in order to demonstrate that their new young leader has the whole party behind him as he asserts his authority, the effort must sometimes have drained.

Now these men are probably doing as much harm as good to the Conservative cause.

Each time that Sir Brian Mawhinney pops up on television, another few million voters are reminded of why they did what they did on May 1. However good the Conservatives' arguments, they are tainted by the party's record and, particularly, by the arrogance with which many ministers behaved. The Tories lost for many reasons, but the scale of their defeat must have owed much to sheer dislike of the people in power.

It is harder for the electorate to summon up the same hatred for, say, Francis Maude, Iain Duncan-Smith or Michael Ancram. Can it be coincidence that these are the Shadow ministers who have performed best in the past few months? For the first time in their lives, they are now in Cabinet, albeit a Shadow version. They come fresh to their jobs, with more energy and enthusiasm than colleagues who are on the down escalator.

The time has come for former Cabinet ministers to bow out. They can afford to be proud of their achievements: they have come as close as possible to the pinnacle of politics. Now they should find a directorship or two, and spend more time with their families.

They could return to the backbenches with honour, in the tradition of loyal, rather than embittered Tory elder statesmen. There they could seek the guidance of Kenneth Clarke, a man whose main attraction has always been that he knows there is more to life than politics. Take your wife to a jazz club, he might say. Make friends with your children again. Learn something new about the world. Above all, for heaven's sake, get a life!

# Sheer gloss

EVEN the most hardened, Embassy-smoking Labour Party conference-goers will have seen nothing like the party to be held at this year's conference by the National Magazine Company Terry Mansfield, the managing director, and the editors of *Cosmopolitan*, *Harpers & Queen*, *Good Housekeeping*, *She*, *Having a Baby*, *Country Living*, *House Beautiful*



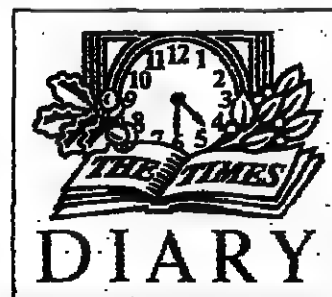
"I can't stand the heat. Let's go into the kitchen"

and *Zest* have booked the Royal Pavilion in Brighton for Thursday, October 2, for their party. No jellied eels or warm bitter here.

Nat. Mag's editors are on the whole a feisty bunch of women, more interested in modern sexual manners and wallpaper than the implications of Labour's first hundred days. Nonetheless, new Labour has cultivated them, sending its senior troops out to serve up homilies to the glossy readers. The most recent example was a cringeing interview given by David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, to *Good Housekeeping*. The hand of Eileen Wise, Norma Major's former press officer, now head of corporate communications for Nat Mag, can be detected in the politicisation of *House Beautiful*.

The fight for the better hotel rooms is already on. This lot know the power of a carefully timed tantrum, not least when faced with the Brighton speciality of rooms with flock paper, no mini-bar and polyester sheets.

Only one set of people ended up in prison as a result of the recent football match-fixing trial: the jurors. When they withdrew to



decide what to do with Grobelaar and the boys, the 12 had to go down to the former dormitories beneath Winchester Crown Court. It was the only room big enough and with powerful enough air-conditioning to accommodate the seven smokers on the jury alongside the non-smokers through their long deliberations.

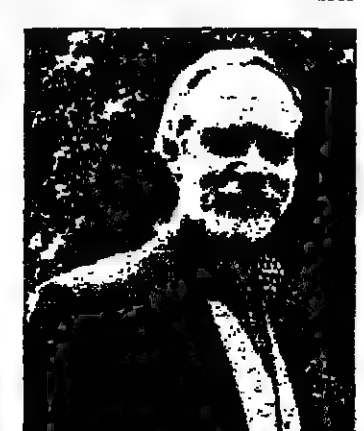
## Noble Deedes

TO the lengthy list of jobs performed by W.F. Deedes, 53, former Cabinet Minister, consigliere to the powerful and above all, reporter, must be added one more: enforcer. Deedes has been in Bosnia with Diana, Princess of Wales on her escape from Park Lane's Arab set. Aside from reporting on the Princess's visit, he has been sharing his knowledge of landmines.

Before dinner with Diana in the town of Travnik, however, Deedes saw it as his duty to lay down the law. Those few reporters invited were told to keep the questions to de-mining matters. Anyone bringing up Dodi would be in deep dodo. The Princess, meanwhile, said of the press gang pursuing her love story: "I need them like I need a hole in the head."

## Garden Pole

POLAND is going crazy for Dr Stefan Buczacki, the gardening tipster and the former host of *Radio*



Buczacki: big in Warsaw

Four's *Gardener's Question Time*. He is visiting his native country for the first time. His father, Tadeusz, a Polish fighter ace in WW2, escaped to Britain when Nazis tanks rolled into Warsaw in 1939 and married an English girl. Stefan was their first child.

Despite speaking only his few words of Polish, Buczacki is big news east of the Oder. "When he walked into the Polish Tourist Office," his producer Diana Stepson tells me, "he was immediately recognised by the staff. They said they had been waiting for him."

After meeting his late father's family, Buczacki is set to go on national television to promote a Polish translation of one of his gardening books. He will also be fielding questions, many of which will have to do with the recent floods which have washed away great quantities of topsoil.

Deference towards Mohamed Al Fayed seems beyond even his lowliest employees. Take Simon Morgan, captain of Fulham Football Club, one of the Egyptian's recent acquisitions. In his column in the programme for Saturday's season-opening game against Wrexham, he writes: "Did you see the lengths Princess Diana went to in a bid to get a free season ticket from the new chairman? Al Fayed, who sat in the stands rather than in the

bullet-proof directors' box, was consoled by seeing his team win 1-0. Morgan had better make sure the results keep coming to balance out the *lèse-majesté*."

## Foul play

NORTH of Bosnia's ethnic divide in Republika Srpska, British SFOR troops attempted to warm relations with the local community by staging a football tournament. Tensions have been high in the area after the SAS snatched operations on suspected Serb war criminals. Sadly their olive branch was grabbed, snapped and tossed back in their faces.

A side called "Ratko Mladic" after the locally lionised yet criminally indicted general, proceeded effortlessly to the final. There, as the crowd burst their lungs with chants of "Ratko Mladic", the team routed the Brits 7-1.

## Eva on Enid

TOMORROW night sees the launch of *Who's Who in Enid*. Blyton by Eva Rice, 22, daughter of Sir Tim Rice, the lyricist and cricket enthusiast. Miss Rice, who recently left Bristol University, squeezed in work on her concordance to Blyton while touring with her rock band,



Eva Rice: Blyton scholar

The Replicant Saints, a largely old Etonian outfit with a funk bent. A loop of their music will play in the background at tomorrow's launch.

Miss Rice put together her book without the aid of computers and CD-Roms, rather with the Blyton books themselves and a sharp pencil. "I have certainly not tackled Noddy's sexual habits or anything like that," she says. "Most of those theories were made up by people who were just jealous of Blyton when she was alive."

P.H.S





## NORTH AND SOUTH

John Hume deserves honour, but not the Presidency

Like Julius Caesar resisting the clamour that he be crowned Emperor, Ireland's most popular politician is agonising about whether he should accept elevation by acclamation. John Hume, MP for Foyle, Northern Ireland MEP, leader of Ulster's Social Democratic and Labour Party, architect of the peace process and champion of Londonderry is weighing whether he should stand for the Presidency of Ireland. Should he decide to contest the election it would be no contest.

The moral stature he is accorded in the Republic, for the effort he has devoted to peace, dwarfs most potential rivals. Ireland's main parties would be unlikely to stand in his way and he would enjoy the blessing of the White House. The office, symbolic rather than executive, would provide a fitting autumnal role for an elder statesman. Mr Hume, however, would be wrong to assume that what is his for the taking should be grasped. His election as President of Ireland would be a significant prize but it would imperil a greater — the peace he has striven so hard to secure.

The election of Mr Hume, a United Kingdom citizen, as the Head of State of the Irish Republic would do nothing to calm Unionist fears about the direction of the peace process. Mr Hume's candidacy will be seen by Unionists as another attempt to blur the border and establish in the world's eyes that the people of Northern Ireland are part of the Republic and not, as most of its citizens are glad to affirm, part of the United Kingdom. His election would be seen as a physical expression of the territorial claim Dublin makes to Northern Ireland in its constitution, a claim Unionists understandably consider anachronistic irreverence.

For Mr Hume even to consider standing betrays a mind-set that sees Ulster and the Republic as a seamless state, certainly in an ideal future if not in the present imperfect. Mr Hume, and his party, have every right to argue that case within the UK, but to do so

from the presidential seat in Phoenix Park would be seen by Unionists as an aggrandising gesture. For a politician who has done so much in Londonderry to try to meet Unionist concerns it would be a heavy-booted and backwards step.

Mr Hume's elevation would allow a younger leadership to take command of the SDLP and, potentially, move closer to liberal Unionism. If that were to happen, then Ulster's politics would gain. But it is still unlikely. Given the hold Mr Hume has had over his party for so long, while so often in Washington or Strasbourg, it is hard to see his influence significantly waning were he to be sitting in state in Dublin. There is another, practical, consideration. A by-election in Mr Hume's constituency of Foyle would give Sinn Féin another opportunity to grandstand and, if the republicans won, the party would overtake the SDLP in the number of MPs it boasted. Mr Hume should not risk yielding his party's position as the leading voice of northern nationalism for the sake of southern comfort.

Choosing a worthy successor to Mary Robinson will be difficult. It is easy to see why John Hume, her worthy equal in easy humanity and liberal spirit, should seem appropriate. Mrs Robinson was, however, uniquely qualified as President to reassure Unionists that Dublin was interested in co-operation with Ulster, not eventual condominium. Married to a Protestant and an opponent of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, on impeccably democratic grounds, she was the perfect figurehead for a Republic which wanted to put assertive republicanism behind it. Mrs Robinson embodied a new Ireland which wanted to become at ease with itself, within its own borders. Modern Ireland, and moderates everywhere, have good reason to respect John Hume but compelling reasons to look elsewhere, among the Republic's rising generation, for a new President.

## FLOWERS OF EVIL

Tough action is needed to curb Taliban's deadly export

All over the killing hills of Afghanistan, where thousands have died in 18 years of civil war and thousands more have been maimed by millions of buried landmines, a deadly harvest is now being gathered. Poppies, deceptively beautiful flowers of evil, are being gathered to fuel Afghanistan's booming opium trade and, incidentally, to fund the war-chest of the Taliban, the country's Islamic rulers. Yet it promises to the United Nations are to be believed, the poppy harvest may soon dwindle. The Taliban leadership is preparing an edict to declare that opium cultivation is a violation of Islamic law, and will co-operate with UN officials in reducing the acreage under cultivation.

Such an assurance would be good news indeed. Drugs are being smuggled into Europe from Afghanistan in huge quantities. The temptation for Afghans to reap the rich harvest is almost irresistible. Their country has been laid waste, their villages and fields ruined, their families left on the brink of starvation. As the state has collapsed, so too has the rule of law. Warlords have plundered the countryside to buy arms; farmers, burdened with new taxes, are desperate for cash; and middlemen in Pakistan and the former Soviet Union are all too eager to encourage the lucrative trade in raw opium.

Stopping the flow of drugs will be difficult and expensive. The UN, working with drug officials from Europe and America, the principal opium markets, has a crop substitution programme that offers cash incentives to farmers replacing drug plants

with legitimate crops. Officials know that they must move carefully: blanket prohibitions enforced by crop burning or spraying could simply raise the opium price and encourage more furtive production in inaccessible regions. And powerful interests, including criminal gangs, tribal chieftains and weapons smugglers, would combine to defeat any production ban were their source of cash suddenly to dry up.

Religion, however, holds powerful sway. In a country where the name of Islam has been invoked to regulate every aspect of daily life, a clerical decree is more powerful than any secular command. Drug cultivation and abuse is contrary to the precepts of Islam. Why then has there been only silence from Afghanistan's current rulers? The answer is obvious: the puritan zealots preach ideals but practise hypocrisy. They depend on the drugs trade for weapons, money and authority. Their eyes may be inflamed by the sight of emancipated women; but they are blind to the drugs that kill humans in their thousands overseas.

For this reason, UN claims that it has secured an assurance of official help in reducing poppy cultivation must be treated sceptically. The Americans, who appear more interested in the Taliban's strategic damage to Iran than in opposing clerical excesses, have reacted with unseemly nonchalance to the opium trade. The pressure on the Taliban to curb the drug exports must be as brutal and multifaceted as it is on the corrupt authorities in Latin America. Only then will the deadly flowers wilt on Afghanistan's hills.

## MENDING THE SKY

Schemes to seal the ozone hole are attractive but fatuous

Solving the ozone problem might seem to be simply a matter of redistribution. There is too little of it high in the stratosphere and too much lower down in the troposphere. Up high, it has been eroded by chlorofluorocarbons, the chemicals used in refrigerators, creating the ozone hole over Antarctica and thinning ozone elsewhere. Down low, where human beings live, pollutants from motor vehicles mix in the sunshine to create excessive amounts of ozone, generating summer smog. All we need to do, a simple man might argue, is to devise a way of transporting low-level ozone high into the stratosphere where it will cease to be a menace and become a positive boon. The ozone hole will be repaired and the problem of photochemical smog solved at a single stroke.

Freddy Heineken, a Dutch beer baron, has been thinking along similar lines. Seeking to reach parts of the atmosphere that other brewers cannot, he has called for an international effort to repair the ozone hole, by methods hardly more sophisticated than the one outlined above. Now retired from management of the brewery, Mr Heineken thinks that we should either encourage every one of the world's 55,000 daily commercial flights to spray 1,000 litres of negatively-charged water into the atmosphere, or adopt a Russian Star Wars contraption that would fire microwaves into the atmosphere.

Studies by a retired professor sponsored by Mr Heineken suggest that these methods might work, but would cost about two billion dollars. Half a million dollars is

needed for field trials to establish feasibility. Mr Heineken's flights of fancy join a series of hairbrained schemes for global engineering put forward over the past decade. A common feature is the aim of converting the active chlorine atoms which destroy ozone into chlorine ions, which do not. But the scale of the problem is vast, and it is a long way up. A total of 3.6 million tons of chlorine would need to be transformed, at a height far above that of normal flight paths. More important are the uncertainties attending any massive exercise in atmospheric chemistry. Having stumbled into the problem through ignorance of the way in which the atmosphere works, it would be fatuous and all too easy to create new problems while trying to correct it.

In any case, a solution to the ozone problem is already in place. True, the Montreal Protocol and its successors which began the process of eliminating chlorofluorocarbons lack the glamour of an Apollo-style ozone repair campaign, but they have already begun to have measurable effects. Last year, for the first time, scientists measured a decline in the quantities of the ozone-eating chemicals in the lower atmosphere. Within a few years, this should be repeated in the stratosphere, and then normal stratospheric processes can begin the slow job of repairing the ozone shield. It may take until the middle of the next century to complete a period which mankind could usefully spend ruing the ignorance of atmospheric chemistry that led to the ozone hole in the first place.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Gap-year students and tuition fees

From Mr John T. Hall

Sir, The possible imposition of tuition fees on 1998 deferred-entry students [reports and leading article, August 7; report, August 8] would interfere with something more fundamental than statute law: it would override their private law rights and do so retrospectively.

Any requirement by government to pay fees which formed no part of the student's contract with the university when the offer of a deferred place was accepted through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service would be unfair, inequitable and incompatible with other legislation dealing with consumer rights. I hope that the Government will have the good sense to act fairly and swiftly to dispel the growing alarm.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN T. HALL  
(Head, Education Law Department),  
Eversheds (solicitors),  
Senator House,  
85 Queen Victoria Street, EC4A 4JF, August 7.

From the Principal of the Stah Form College, Farnborough

Sir, The inevitability of students and parents contributing to university tuition fees is, I think, generally regretted but acknowledged. However, the Government must not permit confusion and lack of clarity to further complicate the 1997 non-A-level scramble for higher education places: it is already a stressful enough time for all concerned.

Whether or not a firm decision is taken to introduce tuition charges for the A-level class of 1998, may I suggest that an assurance be given immediately to all students who matriculate for university entrance by August 1997 that tuition fees will be remitted, provided that they begin their degree programme by October 1998?

This would reduce the likelihood of students leaving into inappropriate courses to beat a possibly imaginary deadline, and it would permit many to benefit without financial penalty from the generally invaluable experience of the gap year they have been planning for 1997-98.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN J. GUY,  
Principal,  
The Sixth Form College,  
Princes Avenue,  
Farnborough, Hampshire,  
August 7.

From Miss Elizabeth Hastings

Sir, I am a second-year undergraduate at the University of Birmingham. When I graduate I wish to study for a PGCE (Postgraduate Certificate of Education) and become a teacher. It is people like me who will be the next generation of teachers, doctors and nurses, etc.

Why should we have to pay for studying for three years (longer in the case of medical students) in order to maintain the social fabric of the country? Will we not be more than putting back into society, for at least 40 years, what we will take out of it for about three? We shall not be exempt from income tax: so must we pay twice for the "privilege" of educating our children and working 80-hour weeks — some of us to save people's lives?

We are privileged to be able to study in higher education: but, despite popular belief, we work extremely hard to get there, extremely hard whilst we are there and extremely hard when we leave to secure a job.

Wishing to further our career prospects in today's capitalist society should not be a punishable offence.

Yours faithfully,  
ELIZABETH HASTINGS,  
5 Brue Avenue,  
Bristol, Somerset,  
August 7.

### Murder of pastor

From the General Secretary of the British Evangelical Council

Sir, Thank you for your report (August 7) of the tragic murder in Hungary of Pastor Michael Pollard while he and his wife were returning from an aid mission to Romania. The story had a double impact.

Many were enabled to pray for the family and the church at Shipley, West Yorkshire, in their devastating loss — surely our first response to such news. Secondly, it gave us a glimpse of genuine evangelical Christianity instead of the extrovert worship styles so beloved by the media.

Thirty years of tireless concern for spreading the Word and helping others tragically culminated in the ultimate sacrifice. That reminded me of someone else — a comparison which I believe Michael Pollard would not have found unwelcome.

Yours gratefully,  
ALAN F. GIBSON,  
General Secretary,  
British Evangelical Council,  
Evershed House, Alma Road,  
St Albans, Hertfordshire,  
becoffice@aol.com  
August 8.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

### The link between public school and Army promotion

From Mr Daniel Oxberry

Sir, To wish the Army to be and to act like society as a whole might appear a worthy aim (letters, August 7). However, we require our soldiers to do interable things in appalling conditions which are simply unacceptable to the vast majority. Their willingness to do so makes them different, separate from the rest of us and the better army for it.

Perhaps Major Eric Joyce, who calls in question the Army's social structures (report, August 4), would like to accompany me to my regimental reunion next autumn. I shall be happy to introduce him there to my former company sergeant-major, now a retired lieutenant-colonel, my former company clerk whom I knew as a corporal and is now a prosperous retired major, and his friend who was a private in the orderly room, now a retired captain. I shall shortly be visiting one of my oldest friends who did not attend public school, began as a private and is now still serving as a full colonel.

Thirty-three years ago, when I joined my splendid county regiment, it did not matter where you had been to school, who your father was or how much money you had. What mattered was that you accepted and respected the norms and values of that excellent organisation, which had evolved over the previous 300 years and bore little resemblance to any one part of civilian society, past or present. That was its charm, and it remains so.

Yours faithfully,  
DANIEL OXBERRY,  
3 Foxmore Street, SW11,  
August 7.

From Mr Charles Ross

Sir, Major-General P. M. Davies (letter, August 7) seeks to contradict

Major Eric Joyce's criticism of "blatant social selection in the Army" by describing the rigorous selection procedures he experienced throughout his long career from his first Unit Selection Board.

He underestimates one point: had he not been to Charterhouse or a similar public school he would have had a minimal chance of passing that first Unit Selection Board.

Major Joyce is completely correct. His only error is to think the class structure and its barriers are limited to the Army — it is endemic in all walks of life, not least among the financial institutions.

The education at public schools is usually excellent: but the "us and them" that it sustains is a weakness which limits our capacity to compete and succeed in an ever-more egalitarian world.

Yours sincerely,  
CHARLES ROSS  
(National Service Lieutenant, RA, 1954-56),  
Mulberry House,  
8 Mount Road,  
Lansdown, Bath,  
August 7.

### Leading from the top

From Lieutenant-Colonel D. P. Earlam

Sir, I think it is entirely appropriate that we should be debating at this time the place where our senior Army officers are educated. After all we do now have the first public school Prime Minister since 1964.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
DAVID EARLAM,  
Sylvan House,  
Worthing Place, Canterbury, Kent,  
August 8.

### 'Bards of the byrger'

From Ms Jan Morris

Sir, Simon Jenkins's article about Wales, "The bards of the byrger" (August 6), has, of course, its fair share of errors — what London article about Wales hasn't? — but its real fault is that it is out of date.

By concentrating upon old English preoccupations like Welsh north-south differences, language subsidies and the laughable side of the Elsteddod Genedlaethol, it fails to recognise that the most progressive elements in Wales, whether Welsh-speaking or not, are trying to reinvent their country, to make of it a truly bilingual, modern, confident and happy nation as eager for the European future as it is proud of the Celtic past.

The creation of a Welsh assembly will be a vital step in that process and is surely as desirable for the United Kingdom, and for Europe as a whole, as it is for Wales itself.

Yours faithfully,  
JAN MORRIS,  
Trianymdw, Gwynedd,  
August 6.

From Sir Wyn Roberts

Sir, When a columnist bearing the noble name of Jenkins (Simon) writes so disparagingly about the National Elsteddod of Wales, I despair of the doyens of our metropolitan newspaper culture.

### Nothing sacred?

From Mr Kevin J. Parkinson

Sir, Mr Anthony Bosanquet (letter, July 25; see also letters, August 1, 4) wonders whether the marvellous Psalm 42: "As pants the hart for cooling streams, when heated in the chase" is destined to join the ranks of the politically incorrect. In Australia, it has. The Australian hymn book gives it: "As pants the hart for cooling streams, in parched and barren ways."

Our political correctness does not finish there. The carol *God rest ye merry, gentlemen* has become *God rest you merry, people all*.

No, Mr Bosanquet, nothing is sacred.

Yours faithfully,  
K. J. PARKINSON,  
10 Porter Terrace,  
Rostrevor 5073,  
South Australia,  
August 4.

### Montserrat crisis

From the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sir, Your information regarding the Governor of Montserrat (Diary, August 1) is grossly inaccurate.

Whatever journalists and their informants in the UK may say, the fact is that the Governor of Montserrat, Mr Frank Savage, has been widely praised by the leaders of the Montserratian community on the island for the dedicated and responsible way in which he has reacted to the volcanic crisis on the island.

Not only has Mr Savage pressed constantly for assistance for the islanders, but he has shared in their sufferings, including moving house seven times in the past two years. In the last year, he and his family have lived in two rooms tacked on to temporary Government offices on the island.

Yours sincerely,  
ELIZABETH SYMONS,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office, SW1A 2AH,  
August 5.

From Warrant Officer Terry Hancill (retd)

Sir, Your report highlights the anachronistic and archaic two-class system which has operated in the Army for generations. But the assertion by "a former member of the Army Board" that "officers are different from soldiers" no longer applies. There is often discussion and opinion-seeking by both parties.

Unfortunately the officer has little experience of life on the "shop floor", whereas senior police officers, for example, have spent some invaluable time gaining experience on the beat before entering the "fast-track" promotion system.

Yours truly,  
TERRY HANCILL  
(Chief Clerk, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, TA, 1950-92),  
6 Hamilton Drive,  
Ormskirk, Lancashire.

From Mrs Caroline Yuill

Sir, In 1898 my grandfather, Air Vice-Marshal Sir George Laing, one of 13 children of an Aberdeenshire farmer, won a scholarship to Fettes School, but his family could not afford the daily return fare.

In 1904, on completion of his state education, he joined the Gordon Highlanders and was quickly promoted to sergeant. He applied for further promotion four times, each time a new excuse being made to turn down the application.

Eventually, in 1912, he joined the Royal Flying Corps, which appears to have been more open-minded in its promotion policy.

Yours faithfully,  
CAROLINE YUILL,  
16 Cotham Road South, Bristol,  
pr82@btinternet.com  
August 5.

### Role for 'nit nurse'

From the General Secretary of the Royal College of Nursing

Sir, There is a wider lesson to be learnt from the debate in your letters pages (August 8) about whether so-called "nit nurses" have a role.

School nurses are there to provide health care and advice to children on a range of issues from asthma to sex. Children often have difficulty in reaching other health services, such as GPs, without the help of an adult. School nurses are often the only way of getting help on matters that concern them.

Unfortunately, the myth that they are there to deal only with head lice and are therefore dispensable has unfortunate consequences: school nurse numbers have been cut in recent years.

Yours sincerely,  
CHRISTINE HANCOCK,  
General Secretary,  
Royal College of Nursing,  
20 Cavendish Square, W1.

From Mr John Thirlwell

Sir, At times of infestation my son's prep school headmaster would write to parents with the stern injunction: "The enemy of the head louse is the fine-toothed comb."

It seemed to work. Perhaps a free supply of combs would be a more cost-effective solution.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN THIRLWELL,  
76 Little Bushey Lane,  
Bushey, Hertfordshire,  
August 8.

### Back to basics

From Councillor W. H. Isley

Sir, If it is true that the likes of royal mistresses and other fashionably beautiful people have persuaded the Government to quash the anti-hunting Bill (Diary, August 4), it surely indicates that these Johnny-come-latelies have more influence with Labour ministers than the combined efforts of public opinion and the overwhelming mass of Labour Party membership.

In which case might I suggest that these new-found friends of Labour show their appreciation by temporarily forsaking their hunt bells, polo matches and champagne soires and doing a bit of door-knocking at the next general election? It seems to me that after spending over half a century pounding the pavements in the Harlepool constituency I might as well put my feet up as I've clearly been wasting my time.

Yours faithfully,  
BILL ISELEY,  
54 Oval Grange,  
Hartlepool, Durham,  
August 6.

### Treasure trove

From Mr Simon Martin

Sir, I am sure that, despite the challenges endured at Eton by Guy Walters ("Damp toast, gloom and Rupert's café"), August 8, he will be surprised by one particular meal I ate when I was at Westminster School in the late 1980s. I still have fond memories of the whole hard-boiled egg I found in the bread and butter pudding one lunchtime.

Yours faithfully,  
SIMON MARTIN,  
14 Perham Road, W14,  
August 8.







OBITUARIES

# PROFESSOR JURGEN KUCZINSKI

Professor Jürgen Kuczinski, German Communist historian, died on August 6 aged 92. He was born on September 19, 1904.

Jürgen Kuczinski was a rounded and witty figure who stood out among East Germany's palid Communist intelligentsia. Part of the grand-bourgeois Jewish social and academic world which was largely destroyed by the post-1933 emigration and the Holocaust, he was a Marxist economic historian and popular essayist who rebelled against the intellectual constraints and taboos of the system he embraced.

He died as he had lived, believing that the eventual triumph of socialism was "unavoidable", although he admitted "with characteristic nonchalance after the down-fall of the Soviet Union that 'the timetable appears to have altered somewhat'". It was a standing joke, enjoyed by himself, that he had spent his whole life predicting the imminent crisis of capitalism.

Kuczinski never offered resistance to the East Germany where he lived from 1950, choosing instead to walk a tightrope between freedom of expression — for which he lobbied the governments of Walter Ulbricht and Erich Honecker without much success — and religious adherence to Marxism-Leninism. He would joke that he had "as many Party disciplinary procedures behind him as Party songs", but the Communist Party was his polar star and he remained a leading member of the reformed Party of Democratic Socialism, the successor to East Germany's ruling Socialist Unity Party.

The child of cosmopolitan Communist parents — his father René Kuczinski taught statistics for a time at the London School of Economics, he graduated precociously from the universities of Heidelberg and Erlangen and gained his doctorate at the age of 21, publishing his first book, *Back to Marx*, a year later. After two years research at the Brookings Institute in Washington, DC he worked for the American Federation of Labor and on Wall Street, where he learnt to play the stock market with some acumen. It was not the last time that he was to exploit his affinity with the capitalist world to aid the Communist cause.

He returned to Germany to edit the *Rote Fahne*, the newspaper of the Communist Party of Germany (KPD), but



emigrated to London in 1936, fleeing the National Socialists. By this time, he had published 13 books on economic history. His 40-volume *History of the Working Classes in Germany* was finally completed in the mid-1980s. His academic output also included sociological studies of German and French literature, a reappraisal of Max Weber and the more accessible *Everyday History of the German People*, which ran to a mere five volumes. His prodigious output was envied and mocked by his academic peers. "Most people read a thousand books and then write one," remarked a friend. "JK does it the other way round."

A leading figure in the Communist-Jewish milieu of north London during the emigration from Germany, he set up a branch of the Free German Youth in Hampstead. He earned his living by managing the financial affairs of a wealthy friend in return for a share of the profits, which he

also used to help fund the KPD in exile. Making his way into elevated left-wing circles, he became a friend of Aneurin Bevan, Cecil Day-Lewis and Lillian Bowen-Lyon, the Queen Mother's cousin.

It was during this time that he produced an unusual piece of covert Communist propaganda in the form of a book entitled *Hitler and the British Empire* — an attempt to prod Britain into declaring war on Germany. Written under the pseudonym James Turner, it was a near-flawless imitation of British Establishment style and logic. He used the same pseudonym to pursue Marxist arguments in the columns of *Labour Weekly*. Never at a loss for influential friends, he was rescued from internment in Devon apparently by high-level American intervention. He dined frequently in Cambridge colleges, where he cultivated Maynard Keynes and Joan Robinson.

His sister, Ruth Werner, was also present in Britain at the time, acting as an agent for Soviet military intelligence under the codename Sonya. It was Kuczinski — probably acting on the orders of the Soviets, although he always denied it — who introduced her to the atomic scientist Klaus Fuchs. Werner became the courier for Fuchs and it was via her that the blueprint of the atom bomb developed at Harwell was passed to Moscow.

In 1944, Kuczinski was given a post in the American Strategic Bombing Survey under Kenneth Galbraith. Later, he admitted that he had passed information gleaned through his contacts with American intelligence to the Soviets.

By 1945, when he returned to the family home in the American zone of Berlin, Washington had become aware of his real loyalties and took symbolic revenge by cutting off his telephone. In 1950, Walter Ulbricht, the first East German leader, bade him

move to the East, luring him with a house in Weissensee, large enough to accommodate his extensive personal library, and the promise of an economics portfolio in the Government. The timing of this move was almost certainly linked to the arrest in Britain of Fuchs, who the Soviets feared would incriminate Kuczinski.

Kuczinski became a delegate of the Volkskammer, but by 1958 had been ousted from East German political life in the purge of Party members who spent the Nazi years in Western emigration.

When Erich Honecker succeeded Ulbricht in 1971 and lifted some of the Stalinist restrictions on East German intellectual life, Kuczinski cultivated his new master and manoeuvred to become an advisor to the intellectually insecure new head of state. As a result of this contact (which he nourished to the point of sycophancy), he was allowed in 1982 to publish the anthology *Dialogue with my Great-Grandson*, the first layman's work in East Germany to discuss the impact on socialism of Stalin's crimes and criticise the economic centralism of the Soviet system. It was then withdrawn on the orders of the propaganda chief Konrad Naumann, who deemed it "counter-revolutionary".

Later, after much wheedling from Kuczinski, Honecker overruled the ban and the book was published in 13 editions, securing its author a reputation as a forerunner of President Gorbachev's reforms.

Kuczinski's home and library in Weissensee were always open to researchers and visitors, and he gaily ignored instructions to register his contacts with potential ideological enemies, believing that it was more useful to argue with them. He gave tutorials rather than interviews and was a rare proponent of open debate in the ideologically fiefdom of the East German of the 1980s.

After the collapse of both East Germany and the Soviet Union, he returned to his earlier themes in a book entitled *Continued Dialogue with my Great-Grandson*. He blithely admitted that his prognosis that socialist societies could recover from Stalinism had been wrong. "I was guilty of miserable political stupidity," he wrote. "With my experience of the world and my intelligence, I should not have fallen into this trap."

He was married to Marguerite Steinfeld, who predeceased him. They had two sons and a daughter.

# GUS BRITTON

Gus Britton, MBE, former Assistant Director of the Royal Navy Submarine Museum, died on July 21 aged 74. He was born on September 9, 1922.

A FORMER Royal Navy signalman and submariner, Gus Britton was internationally renowned for his encyclopaedic knowledge of the Submarine Service and was closely involved in the founding of the Royal Navy Submarine Museum at Gosport. He also exerted himself strenuously on behalf of a number of servicemen's charities, and latterly devoted his life to the Submarine Old Comrades Association.

At the same time he fostered close links with surviving members of German U-boat crews, and was made a member of the U-616 Association, run by the crew of a U-boat which was narrowly missed by a salvo of torpedoes fired by the submarine *Uproar*, in which Britton served during the war.

Ernest Charles Britton was born at Eastney, Hampshire, within sight of the Royal Marine Barracks. His father had served as a chief petty officer in the light cruiser *Caroline* during the Battle of Jutland, but later volunteered for submarines.

Britton was sent to the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook, at the age of 11. From there he went to the Boys' Training Establishment *HMS Ganges*. In 1938, it was here that he acquired the nickname "Gus",

after a comic strip character called Gus the Ancient Briton, whom he resembled in more than name. At *HMS Ganges* he developed into a Royal Navy champion swimmer and water polo player, and at one time held the Navy records for the backstroke and 440 yards freestyle.

He was serving in the battleship *Nelson* on the day the Second World War broke out, but he decided in March 1941 to follow his father and volunteer for service in submarines. He went on to carry out 17 operational patrols in *Tribune* and *Uproar*, and although he was depth-charged on a number of occasions, he never regretted his decision to volunteer.

After the war he served in the submarines *Tapir*, *Acheron*, *Seascope* and *Truculent*, the last of which he left shortly before she was run down and sunk by a Swedish freighter in the Thames Estuary, with great loss of life. In January 1950, many of his friends perished in the disaster. After a number of other submarine appointments he retired from the Royal Navy in 1953.

He then tried a variety of jobs, including a spell as a deck-hand during an unsuccessful expedition to recover Armada gold in the waters off Tobemory on the Isle of Mull. This expedition was headed by Commander Buster Crabbe, who was in 1950 to lose his life in what was probably a bungled covert secret service mission to obtain technical information about the Russian cruiser *Orzhonikidze*, then

berthed in Portsmouth harbour after bringing the Soviet leaders Nikolai Bulganin and Nikita Khrushchev on a state visit to Britain.

In 1957 he joined the City of London Royal Marine Reserve special boat section, qualifying as a parachutist. Some of the happiest times of his life were spent as a Red Coat at Butlins at Clacton, where he was chief lifeguard and a favourite of Sir Billy Butlin.

Throughout this period he maintained his interest in naval and military history, becoming involved in the embryonic Royal Navy Submarine Museum at Gosport in the late 1940s. Struck by wanderlust once more, he took up a position as the swimming instructor at the Ecole Thérèse d'Avila, a French convent school in Lille, in northern France, a post he held for ten years.

He returned to England when his mother's health began to fail, and became assistant director of the Submarine Museum. He retired formally in 1972, but remained as a full-time researcher.

At the age of 65, he swam from Gosport to the Isle of Wight and back — a five-hour marathon — to raise money for the Submarine Old Comrades Association, and he also undertook several sponsored parachute jumps to raise money for the Submarine Memorial Trust, the Erskine Hospital for ex-servicemen and the North Russia Club. He was appointed MBE for his charity work last year. He never married.



Gus Britton (left, with binoculars)

# DOREEN INGRAMS

Doreen Ingrams, writer on the Arab world, died on July 25 aged 91. She was born on January 24, 1906.

A WOMAN of great vitality, Doreen Ingrams was a noted British authority on the Arab world, and one of the founders of the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding. She combined passion with a hatred of injustice. Her studies concentrated on socio-economic conditions in southern Arabia, and especially on the position of women there.

Doreen Constance Ingrams was the daughter of a barrister, the Liberal MP Edward Shortt, sometime Chief Secretary for Ireland and subsequently Home Secretary under Lloyd George. Although she attended Glendower School, and had a governess, she was to a large extent self-educated. During a stay in Dublin, she became a supporter of Home Rule, and became increasingly aware of social injustice. She was moved by the ideals of the Russian Revolution, but also by its human cost. Although, like most young

girls of the time, brought up with no other aim but marriage in view, she determined on a career. At the age of 18, she joined the company of the famous actor-manager Forbes Robertson.

She was taken under the wing of his Anglo-Indian leading lady, and, noticing how she was treated by others outside the company, became sensitive for the first time to racial prejudice. In six years in the theatre (during which she formed a friendship with Peggy Ashcroft that was to be lifelong), Ingrams played leading Shakespearean roles, and travelled around Britain and Ireland, staying in theatrical digs. She saw conditions in miners' homes, and discovered that in the boarding-houses of the day she could usually have her room for the night free if she showed live bed-bugs to the landlady.

Her meeting with Harold Ingrams, a colonial officer on leave from Mauritius, proved a turning point in her life. He was expecting to travel to Ethiopia, and the thought of a visit to so exotic an African country added glamour to his proposal of marriage. They were married in 1930.

The Addis Ababa venture having failed, Ingrams took his wife back to Mauritius later the same year. She found British colonial life there limiting, but developed an interest in the island's mix of cultures. She translated Viscount de Vaux's 18th-century history of Mauritius, and studied classical Arabic.

In 1934 her husband's career took them to southern Arabia, where he served as political officer. Growing impatient with his unproductive life in Aden, he persuaded the Resident to allow him to study the British Protectorate of the Hadhramaut. The couple then toured the area by donkey and camel, and Harold wrote a detailed *Report on the Social, Economic and Political Conditions of Hadhramaut* — which owed much to his wife. She undertook part of the research and, being free to visit harems, was able to write extensively on women's lives.

At the invitation of the Sultan, the couple were later transferred to Mukalla, where Harold Ingrams became the first Resident Adviser. Doreen made contact with women in many parts of the country, then suffering from innumera-

ble feuds. During conversations on the benefits of peace, they urged her to persuade their menfolk to accept the truce then under discussion.

The establishment of peace enabled her to assist in the country's development, especially in education and health. She founded the first Bedouin Girls' School, and a school for the blind. After the famine of 1943-44, she set up a hospital and a children's village for orphans of agricultural labourers. She also accompanied her husband on a visit to Ethiopia, and met Empress Menen.

Returning to England in 1944, she lectured on Hadhramaut and the lives of Arab women for the Central Office of Information. Her *Survey of Social and Economic Conditions in the Aden Protectorate* was published in 1949.

In 1956 she joined the BBC Arabic Service, taking charge of talks and magazine programmes. Her duty tours took her around the Arab world, including the Hadhramaut, where she visited some of the institutions she had founded two decades earlier.

Although the wife of a colonial official, she supported the principle of self-determina-

tion. She was an active opponent of apartheid. She admired Gamal Abdel Nasser for giving the Arab world a sense of pride, was shocked by the Anglo-French intervention at the time of Suez in 1956, and deplored the treatment of the Palestinians, deprived of their lands and rights. After her retirement in 1968, she continued her writing, and was active in organisations such as the United Nations Association and Amnesty International. She became a patron of Friends of Hadhramaut.

She was a frequent speaker on the Arab world, and her publications included *A Time in Arabia* (1970), *Palestine Papers 1917-1922: Seeds of Conflict* (1972), and the 10-volume *Records of Yemen 1795-1960*, which she co-edited with her daughter Leila in 1993.

Her awards included the Lawrence of Arabia medal of the Royal Society for Asian Affairs (1957), the gold medal of the Royal Geographical Society (1940), and the Sir Richard Burton medal of the Royal Asiatic Society (1993).

Her husband died in 1973, and she is survived by her two daughters.



# Church news

## Appointments

The Rev Martin Adams, Vicar, Docking, The Bichams, Stanhoe and Sedgford (Norwich); to be Vicar, St Luke Orrell (Liverpool). The Rev Philip Auden, part-time Chaplain, Evesham Community Hospital (Worcester); to be Priest-in-Charge, Foboworth (Dorset); to be Chaplain, Honeybourne (Gloucester). The Rev Bob Bailey, Chaplain, RAF Lyneham, and Vicar, Lyneham w. Bradenstoke (Salisbury); to be also Rural Dean of Calne Deanery (same diocese). The Rev Stuart Baker, Curate, Whitechurch (Bristol); to be Rector, Brighthelm, Dullington, Mountfield and Netherfield (Chichester). The Rev Catherine Bell, Associate Vicar, St Jude's, Southsea (Portsmouth); to be Chaplain, Luton University, and Assistant Curate, St Mary, Luton (St Albans). Canon Gary Bewick, North Thames Area and UK Regional Secretary for South American Missionary Society (St Albans); to be Rector, Great Smeaton w. Appleton Wiske and Birkby and Danby Wiske w. Hutton Bonville (Ripon).

The Rev Christine Carter, NSM, Blackburn The Saviour; to be part-time Health Care Chaplain, Whiston Hospital (Liverpool). The Rev Bernard Cave-Browne-Cave, Chaplain, HM Prison Service Chaplaincy (Southwark); to be Chaplain, HM The Wear Prison, Portland (Salisbury). Canon Christopher Chapman, Priest-in-Charge, Luddon, Sissland w. Hales and Heddingham and Rural Dean of Loddon (Norwich); to be also Priest-in-Charge, Chedgrave w. Hardley and Langley (same diocese). The Rev Charles Cotton, Assistant Curate, All Saints w. Holy Trinity, Wandsworth (Southwark); to be Vicar, St James, Clapham (same diocese). The Rev Christopher Davey, Assistant Curate, St John, Belle Isle (Ripon); to be Assistant Curate, Hendon St Albans with special responsibility, Inc. St Augustine, Grahame Park (London). The Rev Arthur Dawson, Rector,

Hockering, Honingham, East Tuddenham and North Tuddenham (Norwich); to be Dean of Carracas (Venezuela (ECUSA)). The Rev Kevin Dunne, Priest-in-Charge, Oxclose (Durham); to be also Rural Dean of Chester le Street (same diocese). The Rev Anne Hedges, Priest-in-Charge, Garboldisham w. Blorton, Riddlesworth, Brettenham and Rushford (Norwich); to be Priest-in-Charge, Guitors (new benefice comprising the parishes of Blorton, Garboldisham, Kemingham and Riddlesworth w. Gasthorpe and Knettishall) (same diocese). The Rev Dr Tim Gaden, Curate, Battersea St Mary (Southwark); to be Vicar, same benefice. The Rev Judith Hubbard-Jones, part-time Vice Principal, West of England Ministerial Training Course, and NSM Assistant Curate, Leominster Team Ministry (Hereford); to be Chaplain and Visitors Officer, Gloucester Cathedral (Gloucester).

The Rev Hilary Jowett, formerly Assistant Curate, St Mark's, Broomhill (Sheffield); to be Assistant Curate, Mosborough (same diocese).

The Rev John Kirby, formerly Assistant Curate, Grantham (Lincoln); to be Assistant Curate, Chesterfield St Augustine (Derby).

**Retirements & resignations**  
The Rev Kenneth Coombe, Vicar, Elburton (Exeter) to retire September 30.

The Rev David Dermott, Rector, Hinderswell w. Ratby (York) to retire February 28, 1998.

The Rev John Dykes, Rector, Heanton Punchardon w. Marwood (Exeter) to retire August 31.

Canon John Forryan, Vicar, Dearhurst and Apperley w. Rurhampton and Chaceley, and Honorary Canon of Gloucester Cathedral, to retire October 31.

The Rev Michael Homewood, Rector, South Molton Team (Exeter) to retire July 31.

The Rev Antony Pinches, Vicar, Shipway Collaton (Exeter) to retire September 30.

## PARLIAMENT BILL PASSED. AN HISTORIC DEBATE.

After an historic debate, in the course of which speeches were made by Lord Morley, Lord Rosebery, and Lord Curzon, the House of Lords last night passed the Parliament Bill by a majority of 17, the figures, on the question of non-insistence on the amendment, being:

For... 131  
Against... 114  
Majority... 17

It was evident long before the House got to business yesterday, the attendance being again great, that the sitting would be one of unexampled interest for many years. Everywhere on the Opposition benches there were conferences and discussions. For instance, on the front bench at one moment Lord St. Aldwyn was being interviewed by Lord Halsbury, and the next Lord Rosebery crossed and had a brief conversation with Lord Lansdowne. All over the Opposition benches there was unusual excitement, and the air was full of electricity. Meanwhile the Government benches were perfectly calm. The usual Ministers who have borne the brunt of the work of the late struggle were watching keenly every move. It was noticed that Lord Morley held a small document, which he glanced at

## ON THIS DAY August 11, 1911

A constitutional issue reached its crisis in 1909 when Lloyd George's Budget was rejected by the Lords. If they had not passed this Bill Prime Minister Asquith would have resorted to the King's guarantee to create enough Liberal peers to form an Upper Chamber majority frequently, but beyond this nothing indicated that he was prepared to give a crushing answer to the question addressed to him at the previous sitting. Quietly enough the debate was resumed by LORD MIDDLETON, who claimed the right of the House to know what answer the Government were prepared to give to the questions asked the previous night as to the extent of the guarantees which they had received from the King. Had they received from the King guarantees for the creation of such a number of peers as they thought necessary to pass the Bill substantially as it left the House of Commons...? As soon as Lord Middleton sat down a remarkable scene

quickly followed. There were calls and suggestions from various quarters for a clear statement by the Government as to the guarantees. LORD MORLEY at once rose and read from a paper which he held: "If the Bill should be defeated to-night, his Majesty would assent to the creation of peers sufficient in numbers to guard against any possible combination of the different parties in opposition by which the Government Bill might again be exposed to defeat." Before the Minister could add a word there arose a prolonged triumphant cheer from his followers, while opposite there was a dead silence. There were, however, some cries from under the galleries showing that the words had not been clearly heard, so LORD MORLEY offered to read them again, and he did so... LORD ROSEBERY, proceeding rapidly to the Table and speaking with impressive earnestness and warmth, condemned the conduct of the Government in going twice to a young and inexperienced King only months on the Throne and asking for contingent guarantees before the Bill had passed the House of Commons and when it was kept from the House of Lords. Nor had any ex-Cabinet Minister been consulted. They could not measure the enormous gravity of the situation brought about by the Government. The whole transaction left an unpleasant flavour.



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TODAY IN THE TIMES SUMMER OF SPORT

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# TIMES SPORT

MONDAY AUGUST 11 1997

CHAMPIONS BACK IN THE OLD ROUTINE AT TOTTENHAM

## Last laugh for unmoved United



By OLIVER HOIT  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE new FA Carling Premiership season exploded into life in all its glorious technicolour yesterday when Teddy Sheringham, one of its most celebrated players, was dragged through the emotional wringer on his highly-charged return to his old stomping ground, White Hart Lane, with his new club, Manchester United.

The Tottenham Hotspur fans baited him all afternoon. They taunted him by singing that he was a waste of money and they went into delicious celebrations when he whacked a penalty against a post right in front of them. Football has no fury like the supporter scorned, but just when it seemed that Spurs had broken their erstwhile hero, he had the last laugh.

Playing his first competitive game for his new team since his move to Old Trafford this summer, Sheringham had driven his 59th-minute penalty against the foot of Ian Walker's right-hand post, after Edinburgh had handled in the area, and then hoisted the rebound over the bar. Yet the England striker, who cost Manchester United £3.75 million, dragged himself back from the brink of utter humiliation by inadvertently creating United's crucial first goal for Nicky Butt nine minutes from the end of a frantic second half and celebrating it as though he had just completed a hat-trick.

Less than a minute later, Vega poked Beckham's deep cross low into his own goal and Tottenham's fate was sealed.

"Teddy did his best for Tottenham," Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, said afterwards. "When he got the penalty, I turned to Brian Kidd and said 'I hope he does not miss this one. Next week would be okay but not this one'."

"When you appoint a penalty taker, it is important you know he has the temperament to be able to carry on if he misses and he showed that character today. You have got to expect the sort of stick he got. It was a bit over the top, but not quite in the same league as the reception Paul Jones got when he went back to West Ham."

Sheringham's eventual prompting of the United victory, though, was confirmation not only of his own redemption but of the wisdom of his insistence on a transfer. On yesterday's performance, Spurs are not as bad as their fans may have feared, but they are still far from potential champions.

United had taken the whole of the first half to find their stride, but once they hit it, they battered Spurs into submission with a riot of unanswered attacks that provided



Butt celebrates the goal that set Manchester United on the way to victory in their first match of the season, at White Hart Lane yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

the first evidence that Alex Ferguson's team, once more, will be the team to beat this season. "They have set the standard already with that performance," Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, said.

The first weekend of the new season, of course, is so soon to read much into a sequence of results, but where Liverpool and Arsenal had both faltered against middling opposition on Saturday, United slipped back into the old routine here yesterday by ruthlessly disposing of a Tottenham team

that lacked penetration in attack and creativity in midfield.

Tottenham managed to hold their own for the first 45 minutes and had the best player on the pitch in Sol Campbell, but, after the interval and particularly when Roy Keane, United's new captain, started to stride forward more regularly and David Beckham had replaced Paul Scholes on the right, they were outclassed.

The home team had started the match playing with more confidence and cohesion than most of

their own supporters had dared hope for. Ginola was the soul of composure and flair from the start and, after the Frenchman had provided the United defence with its first test with a long ball towards Ferdinand that Phil Neville did well to intercept, Nielsen lofted another ball towards the England centre forward. This time, it took a desperate last-ditch interception by Johnson to put Ferdinand off.

At the back, Campbell was imperious, stifling every United initiative, mopping up cleanly and

calmly. Even his distribution, something that the England manager, Glenn Hoddle, has said he must work on, was flawless.

With Pallister and Johnsen unyielding at the other end, too, first-half opportunities were limited to the occasional half-chance. Walker smothered a snap shot from Sheringham low down at his near post and Vega nodded Ginola's corner high over the bar from an unmarked position ten yards out. In the second half, though, Spurs' resistance crumbled. Giggs

should have scored when Phil Neville pulled a low cross back to him 15 yards out, but he lifted his head and his shot flew over. Then Giggs laid a pass into the path of Scholes and, when his mis-hit shot scuttled across the Spurs area, Sheringham ran on to it but lifted it high over the bar.

By now, Campbell was keeping United at bay almost by himself, but even he was powerless when Edinburgh, who had just tackled Cruyff, scooped the ball further away from trouble with his hand.

The rapture of the Spurs supporters was something to behold when Sheringham missed, but, in fact, it was just the beginning of the end.

**TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2):** Walker — S. Carr, R. Vega, S. Campbell, J. Edinburgh — A. Nelson, D. Hazzell, S. O'Brien (sub), A. Griffin, D. Ginola — L. Ferdinand, S. Hassen.

**MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2):** P. Scholes — D. Irwin, R. Johnson, G. Pallister, P. Neville — P. Scholes (sub), D. Beckham, C. N. Butt, R. Keane, R. Giggie — E. Sheringham, J. Cruyff.

Referee: G. Poll.

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Wilson's faith, page 27  
Lynne Truss, page 29

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Lifeboats



ATHLETICS: RELAY SQUADS ADD TO MEDAL TALLY ON THE FINAL DAY OF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

# Britain combine to claim quick silver

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN ATHENS

IN THE 44th and final event of the world championships here yesterday, Great Britain failed narrowly to win their first gold medal as the men's 4x400 metres team lost out in a close finish to the United States. The squad returns home with five silver medals and the bronze that was taken, unexpectedly, by the 4x100 metres relay team last night.

Never, in the history of world championships and Olympic games, had the United States lost both men's relays and this was as close as they came. They had failed to reach the final in the shorter relay and looked vulnerable in the longer one as Britain enjoyed the advantage of fielding the same quartet that had finished runners-up in the Atlantic Olympic Games last year.

Although Antonio Pettigrew, who had beaten Roger Black to the 1991 world title, was on the second leg, the three other team members were largely inexperienced: Jerome Young, on the opening

leg, is only 20, as is Tyrone Washington, who had the task of the anchor leg of holding off Mark Richardson and a valiant, indeed surprising, challenge from Jamaica.

Even without Michael Johnson, who had won the individual 400 metres title for the third world championships in succession, and Butch Reynolds, who had won the 400 metres title for the third world championships in Tokyo. On that occasion, it was Kris Akabusi, on the last leg, who delivered victory for Britain in a European record time of 2min 57.53sec. When Black, Richardson, Iwan Thomas and Jamie Baulch finished second in Atlanta, they improved the European record by almost a second, recording 2min 56.50sec. Last night, they were a mere 0.15sec slower, but would have needed yet another European record to take the gold.

## MEDALS TABLE

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
United States	8	7	5
Germany	7	3	4
Cuba	6	3	1
Kenya	1	2	1
Ukraine	1	2	1
Ukraine	1	2	1
Czech Republic	1	1	0
Norway	1	1	0
Russia	1	1	0
Spain	1	1	0
Poland	1	1	0
Australia	1	1	0
Romania	1	1	0
Canada	1	1	0
Poland	1	1	0
South Africa	1	1	0
France	1	1	0
Japan	1	1	0
Ukraine	1	1	0
Denmark	1	1	0
New Zealand	1	1	0
Sweden	1	1	0
Great Britain	0	5	1

## Bubka maintains his pole position

FROM DAVID POWELL

SERGEY BUBKA produced the most stunning performance of his long and distinguished career yesterday when he maintained his position as the only athlete to win at every world championships since they were inaugurated in 1983. Bubka's sixth title was achieved against all the odds and a background of precious little from this season.

Bubka, from Ukraine, has set 35 world records indoors and outdoors, but he came to Athens with his name nowhere to be seen among the world leaders for his event this year. When he cleared 5.70 metres in the qualifying round, it was his best height of the summer. By the time he took his familiar place on the podium, he had cleared 6.01 metres to set a championship record and defeat Maksim Tarasov, from Russia, the former Olympic champion. Nick Buckfield, in finishing fifth, with 5.70 metres, achieved the best performance by a British pole-vaulter in the history of these championships.

In 1994, Daniel Komen succeeded Haile Gebrselassie as world junior 5,000 and 10,000

metres champions. Yesterday, he joined him as a senior world champion. Aged 21, Komen, from Kenya, won the 5,000 metres Gebrselassie having triumphed for Ethiopia in the 10,000 metres on Wednesday.

In the summer of 1996, Komen took over from Noureddine Morceli as the most prolific attack of middle-distance world records and, towards the end of the season, sliced an extraordinary 4.44sec off the Algerian's mark over 3,000 metres. However, he had still to appear in a senior international championship, having failed to make the Kenya team for the 1995 world championships or the 1996 Olympic Games.

Komen might have been tempted into trying to become the first athlete to take the \$100,000 bonus for a world record here, but no. He had said in the depths of winter that his priority for 1997 was to win in Athens. "I am the 3,000 metres world record-holder, but without having any world championships or Olympic gold medals," he had said, frustration in his voice. Yesterday, he put that right, winning in 13min 7.38sec.

olds, the world record-holder, Britain knew not to take victory for granted. Washington had finished third in the individual race, Young fifth and Pettigrew seventh.

The only defeat that the United States had suffered in eight world and Olympic finals since 1984 was at the 1991 world championships in Tokyo. On that occasion, it was Kris Akabusi, on the last leg, who delivered victory for Britain in a European record time of 2min 57.53sec. When Black, Richardson, Iwan Thomas and Jamie Baulch finished second in Atlanta, they improved the European record by almost a second, recording 2min 56.50sec. Last night, they were a mere 0.15sec slower, but would have needed yet another European record to take the gold.

Thomas took the first leg and came home trailing Young slightly. Black, as the athletes broke lanes, found himself in third place, separated from the United States by Jamaica. Pettigrew held the lead and, at the second change-over, Baulch was back in third.

Baulch, a former Wales schools international trampolinist, uncoupled like a spring over the first 200 metres, passing McFarlane, for Jamaica, and Chris Jones, for the Americans. Baulch held his position around the top bend, but had given too much too early and conceded the lead to the American before the final changeover.

Richardson, who had been Britain's highest finisher in the individual event, setting a personal best to finish fourth, chose to sit behind Washington until they came off the final bend. Washington, competing at his first senior international championship, had taken the bronze medal just ahead of Richardson in the individual race and the scene was set for a thrilling last 30 metres. The British moved out into lane two and, just briefly, looked as though he may have the better of his opponent. Washington, though, had judged his run well and crossed the line in 2min 56.47sec. Britain followed in 2min 56.65sec and Jamaica, menacing to the last, followed in 2min 56.75sec.

Ironically, it was Britain who benefited from the absence of the United States in the final of the 4x100 metres. Canada, having won the Olympic title last year, retained their world title in 38.07sec. Nigeria were second in 38.07sec and Great Britain



Bubka makes a successful clearance on the way to the pole vault gold medal

third in 38.14sec. Darren Braithwaite, Darren Campbell and Doug Walker combined to leave Julian Golding in fourth place at the last changeover. Golding edged past the Cuban to secure, by 0.01sec, bronze medals.

Paula Radcliffe's consistency over 5,000 metres is impressive, but she has yet to be rewarded with a medal. Fifth in Gothenburg at the last world championships and in the Atlanta Olympics, Radcliffe finished fourth here on Saturday. The British lack of finishing pace was exposed

after she had tried, unsuccessfully, from 1,250 metres out, to burn off her opponents.

One cannot help but think that Radcliffe would be better moving up to 10,000 metres. She was second in the world cross country championships in March on a 6,600-metre undulating course and, over 25 laps, would be less vulnerable to a mass charge of the kind that engulfed her here. Radcliffe led approaching the bell, but was passed by Gabriela Szabo, from Romania, Roberta Brunet, from Italy, and Fernanda Ribeiro,

from Portugal. Szabo is a crossroad fanatic, apparently, spending an hour a day on puzzles. Here she filled in the blank that she had left at the Atlanta Olympics, where she failed to qualify for the final after falling. Her consolation prize was a silver medal from the 1,500 metres.

Bob Weir, 36, can be satisfied with his eighth place for Britain in the discus. In an event won by Lars Riedel, from Germany, Weir improved on his recent world championship and Olympic performances.

## Hingis suffers rare defeat in California

MARTINA HINGIS was beaten for only the second time this year when she lost to Lindsay Davenport, of the United States, in the semi-finals of the Acura Classic tennis tournament in Manhattan Beach, California. Davenport, the defending champion, became the first player to defeat the world No 1 since she lost to Iva Majoli in the final of the French Open in June, although the American almost spurned her opportunity.

Davenport contrived to lose a 5-0 lead and two match points in the third set before recovering to win 6-2, 4-6, 6-4. Hingis had won 17 successive matches and has a 56-2 record this year. She had not lost a three-set match since the third round of the French Open last year.

## Menu clinches title

MOTOR RACING: Alain Menu, of Switzerland, clinched the Auto Trader RAC Touring Car Championship yesterday — with six rounds remaining — when he recorded a win and a second placing at Snetterton, Norfolk. The 44-year-old Williams Renault Laguna driver said: "It's a fantastic feeling. We have worked very hard for this."

## England reach finals

HOCKEY: Maggie Souyave, the England coach, admitted she was feeling "awful but relieved" after her team survived a tense last few minutes to hold on to a 2-1 lead against Russia in the qualifying tournament in Harare yesterday to book their place at next year's World Cup finals in Utrecht, Holland. "We made it hard work," she said.

## Double for Hawes

BOWLS: Katherine Hawes, 27, who won the English women's two-wood singles championship at Royal Leamington Spa on Friday, achieved a rare double when she took the champion of champions title yesterday, beating Frances Hewett, of Dorset, 21-6 in the final. Today, the City and County of Oxford player starts her challenge in the finals.

## Temporary setback

MOTOR CYCLING: Niall MacKenzie recovered from a crash in the first race to delight a partisan 15,000 crowd with victory in the second race in the eighth round of the British superbike championship at Knockhill, Fife yesterday. MacKenzie, the defending champion, recovered from his setback to claim his tenth victory of the season.

## McColgan on the road

ATHLETICS: Liz McColgan made a low-key return to competition for the first time since the Flora London Marathon by winning a ten-kilometre road race in Antrim, Northern Ireland on Saturday. McColgan, who had a back operation in June, won in a time of 33min 23sec.

## Tanner takes second

CYCLING: John Tanner finished second in the thirteenth round of the Ambrosia premier calendar series yesterday, but maintained his overall competition lead. Mark McKay won the 104-mile Havant grand prix, with Matthew Stephens third; all three were credited with 4hr 19min 39sec.

## Waites wins in play-off

GOLF: Brian Waites, the former Ryder Cup player, holed a six-foot putt at the second hole of a play-off with Malcolm Gregson to win the Credit Suisse Seniors' Open at Bad Ragaz, near Zurich, yesterday. Waites, 57, and Gregson had tied on 203, seven under par.

## Greeks lack the staying power

IF EVER there was an event made for the people, it is the marathon run from the town of Marathon to the heart of the city of Athens. Well, there were two exciting marathons to provide that heartbeat this weekend, a women's race won on Saturday morning by the indomitable toughness of the Japanese and a men's marathon at the same hour yesterday, claimed by the professional organisation of the Spaniards, Abel Anton and Martin Fiz, who took gold and silver. In addition and at last, there was a world championship medal, a bronze for Steve Monaghan, the Australian who has been running these 42-kilometre distances for 11 years.

An old soldier of the event, Monaghan. So how could we ignore the analogy to Pheidippides, the legendary military messenger, who, in 490 BC, ran from Marathon to Athens in full battle dress, delivered the message "we have won", alluding to the Greek victory over the Persians, and dropped dead in the marketplace? How can Greece overlook the debt to Pheidippides?

The population, alas, did a very good job in ignoring both their history and their future. It would seem likely that the efforts of some to bring the Olympic Games back to their breeding ground in 2004 will fail because of the apathy of the modern generation. Athenians who had the means to pay apparently did not have the will to stay; they were on holiday, on the beaches and not filling the 52,000 seats in the main arena. Yet it cost not a drachma to watch the marathon on its classical route. The Panathinaiko Stadium, a marvellously evocative marble arena, shaped like a horseshoe and with imposing colonnade gates, was virtually empty on Saturday, dotted with only a couple of hundred people yesterday. Why? Explanations are plenty, including one that the Mayor of Athens, reacting to the explosion of a bomb in the Stockholm Olympic stadium, ordered those

Louis, a water-carrier by trade, who won the marathon when the Olympic Games were reborn in Athens and after whom the new Olympic stadium is named?

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## ROB HUGHES



At the world championships

who had tickets to be barred from this place. So, acquiescing to the far-off sound of violence, misreading the resolve of the International Olympic Committee members who must vote on September 5 for the 2004 Games, the Greeks destroyed the coronation of runners who should mean most to their heritage.

Had the efforts been more organised, they would have seen on Saturday quite astounding insouciance from the Japanese women, who, in temperatures reaching towards 90F and humidity rising towards 50 per cent, broke the very resistance of this momentous course. Hiromi Suzuki, pouring on the pace where the Marathon-to-Athens run was at its steepest — a long, searching incline from 15 to 30 kilometres — broke the record for a woman here, finishing in 2hr 29.49min.

Takako Tobise and Nobuko Fujimura also finished in the top ten and so Japan easily took the team award. Great Britain? Four British women entered and the four — Angharad Mair, Sally Goldsmith, Danielle Sanderson and Carolyn Hunter-Rowe — all finished, between 23rd and 47th place, no disgrace.

In similar elements yesterday, the Spaniards, salaried runners paid by their government, systematically retained the world championship crown of laurels. At first, it was the Africans, eager but unsure in their pace, who

attempted to stretch the field. Africa may rule from 500 to 10,000 metres, and rule majestically, but there is not the same financial incentive in marathons that can offer two, perhaps three leading prizes each season. To the British, also, it may seem a question of limited finance. Ill-prepared and physically ailing, our entrants in more than the marathon have fallen by the wayside, our main hope for yesterday ruined by Richard Nurkhar succumbing to a virus that came down with him from altitude training.

The need for concerted medical planning across the board of British sport is obvious. The access to proven sporting science helped Fiz to dominate so much of the marathon yesterday. This claim, bearded, competitive man has been advised for years by Dr Sabino Padilla, the physician to Miguel Indurain, the phenomenon of Tour de France cycling. Yet Fiz, taking control of the marathon shortly after 25 kilometres, was to be dogged at every stride and to have his glory snatched from him when he was in sight of the marble pillars.

We had seen Anton a stride behind Fiz from the beginning, seen him refuse at any point to share the burden, seen him wait and we mistakenly thought content to protect and support his countryman. Oh, devious thought; when he surged, literally within 200 yards of the stadium, Fiz had no commensurate response.

Their times of 2hr 13min 16sec and 2hr 13min 25sec were a minute ahead of all the rest. For Britain, David Buzza had run up to his standard. 2hr 20min 34sec, for seventh place, but Dale Rixon did not last half the distance.

Someone we could be sure would do so, Monaghan, persevering to the last, made the bronze his in the last ten kilometres and then, without intending it, spiked another British lament. "Where I come from, Ballarat, temperatures at this time of year are zero, maybe," he said. "I've been lying in a hothouse, working the exercise bike. People thought I was mad, but it worked a treat."

## Banks still in the race for Britain

FROM ROB HUGHES

TONY BANKS, the Minister for Sport, may become a winner for Great Britain, despite missing the boat for the world athletic championships in Athens. Banks had been expected to arrive for the weekend, breaking away from his holiday on the island of Rhodes, to meet Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), who is apparently keen to offer financial and spiritual assistance to the proposed Academy of British Sport.

He did not arrive, but, through the emissary of Robert Simson, an Englishman who is honorary treasurer to the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF), Banks will be invited to visit Samaranch at the IOC headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.

"It was terribly unfortunate," said a close observer to the detailed plans that included arranging a seat for Banks next to Samaranch in the Olympic Stadium. "He [Banks] is a human being who happened to be on holiday and agreed to a request from the British Athletic Federation, also from Samaranch himself, to come and talk about the needs of Britain, and the British Olympic Association."

Samaranch, it seems, takes the view that a healthy international Olympic sport very much needs Britain competing at the heart of it. More-over, Samaranch had been informed that "this new chap Banks" was the first sports minister of Britain to actually care for his subject for a great many years.

The boat has been missed and British sport, still struggling with the transition from amateur to professional funding, is shipping water, but if there is a helping hand from Lausanne, with no strings attached, then clearly Banks should book his flight without further hesitation. The gold is there for the taking.

## RESULTS FROM ATHENS

<p><b>Men</b></p> <p><b>5,000 metres</b>  <b>Gold:</b> 1. S. Bubka (UKR) 13:07.38; 2. D. Komen (KEN) 13:07.38; 3. D. Komen (KEN) 13:07.38; 4. D. Komen (KEN) 13:07.38; 5. D. Komen (KEN) 13:07.38; 6. D. Komen (KEN) 13:07.38; 7. D. Komen (KEN) 13:07.38; 8. D. Komen (KEN) 13:07.38; 9. D. Komen (KEN) 13:07.38; 10. D. Komen (KEN) 13:07.38.</p> <p><b>10,000 metres</b>  <b>Gold:</b> 1. S. Bubka (UKR) 26:14.65; 2. D. Komen (KEN) 26:14.65; 3. D. Komen (KEN) 26:14.65; 4. D. Komen (KEN) 26:14.65; 5. D. Komen (KEN) 26:14.65; 6. D. Komen (KEN) 26:14.65; 7. D. Komen (KEN) 26:14.65; 8. D. Komen (KEN) 26:14.65; 9. D. Komen (KEN) 26:14.65; 10. D. Komen (KEN) 26:14.65.</p> <p><b>15,000 metres</b>  <b>Gold:</b> 1. S. Bubka (UKR) 39:28.15; 2. D. Komen (KEN) 39:28.15; 3. D. Komen (KEN) 39:28.15; 4. D. Komen (KEN) 39:28.15; 5. D. Komen (KEN) 39:28.15; 6. D. Komen (KEN) 39:28.15; 7. D. Komen (KEN) 39:28.15; 8. D. Komen (KEN) 39:28.15; 9. D. Komen (KEN) 39:28.15; 10. D. Komen (KEN) 39:28.15.</p> <p><b>20,000 metres</b>  <b>Gold:</b> 1. S. Bubka (UKR) 52:40.12; 2. D. Komen (KEN) 52:40.12; 3. D. Komen (KEN) 52:40.12; 4. D. Komen (KEN) 52:40.12; 5. D. Komen (KEN) 52:40.12; 6. D. Komen (KEN) 52:40.12; 7. D. Komen (KEN) 52:40.12; 8. D. Komen (KEN) 52:40.12; 9. D. Komen (KEN) 52:40.12; 10. D. Komen (KEN) 52:40.12.</p> <p><b>25,000 metres</b>  <b>Gold:</b> 1. S. Bubka (UKR) 65:51.45; 2. D. Komen (KEN) 65:51.45; 3. D. Komen (KEN) 65:51.45; 4. D. Komen (KEN) 65:51.45; 5. D. Komen (KEN) 65:51.45; 6. D. Komen (KEN) 65:51.45; 7. D. Komen (KEN) 65:51.45; 8. D. Komen (KEN) 65:51.45; 9. D. Komen (KEN) 65:51.45; 10. D. Komen (KEN) 65:51.45.</p> <p><b>30,000 metres</b>  <b>Gold:</b> 1. S. Bubka (UKR) 79:02.34; 2. D. Komen (KEN) 79:02.34; 3. D. Komen (KEN) 79:02.34; 4. D. Komen (KEN) 79:02.34; 5. D. Komen (KEN) 79:02.34; 6. D. Komen (KEN) 79:02.34; 7. D. Komen (KEN) 79:02.34; 8. D. Komen (KEN) 79:02.34; 9. D. Komen (KEN) 79:02.34; 10. D. Komen (KEN) 79:02.34.</p> <p><b>35,000 metres</b>  <b>Gold:</b> 1. S. Bubka (UKR) 92:13.67; 2. D. Komen (KEN) 92:13.67; 3. D. Komen (KEN) 92:13.67; 4. D. Komen (KEN) 92:13.67; 5. D. Komen (KEN) 92:13.67; 6. D. Komen (KEN) 92:13.67; 7. D. Komen (KEN) 92:13.67; 8. D. Komen (KEN) 92:13.67; 9. D. Komen (KEN) 92:13.67; 10. D. Komen (KEN) 92:13.67.</p> <p><b>40,000 metres</b>  <b>Gold:</b> 1. S. Bubka (UKR) 105:24.98; 2. D. Komen (KEN) 105:24.98; 3. D. Komen (KEN) 105:24.98; 4. D. Komen (KEN) 105:24.98; 5. D. Komen (KEN) 105:24.98; 6. D. Komen (KEN) 105:24.98; 7. D. Komen (KEN) 105:24.98; 8. D. Komen (KEN) 105:24.98; 9. D. Komen (KEN) 105:24.98; 10. D. Komen (KEN) 105:24.98.</p> <p><b>45,000 metres</b>  <b>Gold:</b> 1. S. Bubka (UKR) 118:36.29; 2. D. Komen (KEN) 118:36.29; 3. D. Komen (KEN) 118:36.29; 4. D. Komen (KEN) 118:36.29; 5. D. Komen (KEN) 118:36.29; 6. D. Komen (KEN) 118:36.29; 7. D. Komen (KEN) 118:36.29; 8. D. Komen (KEN) 118:36.29; 9. D. Komen (KEN) 118:36.29; 10. D. Komen (KEN) 118:36.29.</p> <p><b>50,000 metres</b>  <b>Gold:</b> 1. S. Bubka (UKR) 131:47.60; 2. D. Komen (KEN) 131:47.60; 3. D. Komen (KEN) 131:47.60; 4. D. Komen (KEN) 131:47.60; 5. D. Komen (KEN) 131:47.60; 6. D. Komen (KEN) 131:47.60; 7. D. Komen (KEN) 131:47.60; 8. D. Komen (KEN) 131:47.60; 9. D. Komen (KEN) 131:47.60; 10. D. Komen (KEN) 131:47.60.</p> <p><b>55,000 metres</b>  <b>Gold:</b> 1. S. Bubka (UKR) 144:58.71; 2. D. Komen (KEN) 144:58.71; 3. D. Komen (KEN) 144:58.71; 4. D. Komen (KEN) 144:58.71; 5. D. Komen (KEN) 144:58.71; 6. D. Komen (KEN) 144:58.71; 7. D. Komen (KEN) 144:58.71; 8. D. Komen (KEN) 144:58.71; 9. D. Komen (KEN) 144:58.71; 10. D. Komen (KEN) 144:58.71.</p> <p><b>60,000 metres</b>  <b>Gold:</b> 1. S. Bubka (UKR) 158:09.82; 2. D. Komen (KEN) 158:09.82; 3. D. Komen (KEN) 158:09.82; 4. D. Komen (KEN) 158:09.82; 5. D. Komen (KEN) 158:09.82; 6. D. Komen (KEN) 158:09.82; 7. D. Komen (KEN) 158:09.82; 8. D. Komen (KEN) 158:09.82; 9. D. Komen (KEN) 158:09.82; 10. D. Komen (KEN) 158:09.82.</p> <p><b>65,000 metres</b>  <b>Gold:</b> 1. S. Bubka (UKR) 171:20.93; 2. D. Komen (KEN) 171:20.93; 3. D. Komen (KEN) 171:20.93; 4. D. Komen (KEN) 171:20.93; 5. D. Komen (KEN) 171:20.93; 6. D. Komen (KEN) 171:20.93; 7. D. Komen (KEN) 171:20.93; 8. D. Komen (KEN) 171:20.93; 9. D. Komen (KEN) 171:20.93; 10. D. Komen (KEN) 171:20.93.</p> <p><b>70,000 metres</b>  <b>Gold:</b> 1. S. Bubka (UKR) 184:32.04; 2. D. Komen (KEN) 184:32.04; 3. D. Komen (KEN) 184:32.04; 4. D. Komen (KEN) 184:32.04; 5. D. Komen (KEN) 184:32.04; 6. D. Komen (KEN) 184:32.04; 7. D. Komen (KEN) 184:32.04; 8. D. Komen (KEN) 184:32.04; 9. D. Komen (KEN) 184:32.04; 10. D. Komen (KEN) 184:32.04.</p> <p><b>75,000 metres</b>  <b>Gold:</b> 1. S. Bubka (UKR) 197:43.15; 2. D. Komen (KEN) 197:43.15; 3. D. Komen (KEN) 197:43.15; 4. D. Komen (KEN) 197:43.15; 5. D. Komen (KEN) 197:43.15; 6. D. Komen (KEN) 197:43.15; 7. D. Komen (KEN) 197:43.15; 8. D. Komen (KEN) 197:43.15; 9. D. Komen (KEN) 197:43.15; 10. D. Komen (KEN) 197:43.15.</p> <p><b>80,000 metres</b>  <b>Gold:</b> 1. S. Bubka (UKR) 210:54.26; 2. D. Komen (KEN) 210:54.26; 3. D. Komen (KEN) 210:54.26; 4. D. Komen (KEN) 210:54.26; 5. D. Komen (KEN) 210:54.26; 6. D. Komen (KEN) 210:54.26; 7. D. Komen (KEN) 210:54.26; 8. D. Komen (KEN) 210:54.26; 9. D. Komen (KEN) 210:54.26; 10. D. Komen (KEN) 210:54.26.</p> <p><b>85,000 metres</b>  <b>Gold:</b> 1. S. Bubka (UKR) 224:05.37; 2. D. Komen (KEN) 224:05.37; 3. D. Komen (KEN) 224:05.37; 4. D. Komen (KEN) 224:05.37; 5. D. Komen (KEN) 224:05.37; 6. D. Komen (KEN) 224:05.37; 7. D. Komen (KEN) 224:05.37; 8. D. Komen (KEN) 224:05.37; 9. D. Komen (KEN) 224:05.37; 10. D. Komen (KEN) 224:05.37.</p> <p><b>90,000 metres</b>  <b>Gold:</b> 1. S. Bubka (UKR) 237:16.48; 2. D. Komen (KEN) 237:16.48; 3. D. Komen (KEN) 237:16.48; 4. D. Komen (KEN) 237:16.48; 5. D. Komen (KEN) 237:16.48; 6. D. Komen (KEN) 237:16.48; 7. D. Komen (KEN) 237:16.48; 8. D. Komen (KEN) 237:16.48; 9. D. Komen (KEN) 237:16.48; 10. D. Komen (KEN) 237:16.48.</p> <p><b>95,000 metres</b>  <b>Gold:</b> 1. S. Bubka (UKR) 250:27.59; 2. D. Komen (KEN) 250:27.59; 3. D. Komen (KEN) 250:27.59; 4. D. Komen (KEN) 250:27.59; 5. D. Komen (KEN) 250:27.59; 6. D. Komen (KEN) 250:27.59; 7. D. Komen (KEN) 250:27.59; 8</p>
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# Gear trouble near finish denies Briton popular win in Hungarian Grand Prix

## Hill's charge overtaken by misfortune

FROM MICHAEL CALVIN  
IN BUDAPEST

DAMON HILL was two miles from the most fulfilling win of his career yesterday afternoon, just two laps from his most memorable achievement since he became world champion. Then, in a mortifying sequence that compressed a season's misfortunes into a minute, he lost his gears, his accelerator and the Hungarian Grand Prix.

He forced his underdeveloped, underpowered, Arrow-Yamaha to the finish on little more than a *touching faith* in the fairness of fate, but could do nothing to prevent his former Williams team-mate, Jacques Villeneuve, from inheriting the most fortunate victory of his Formula One career.

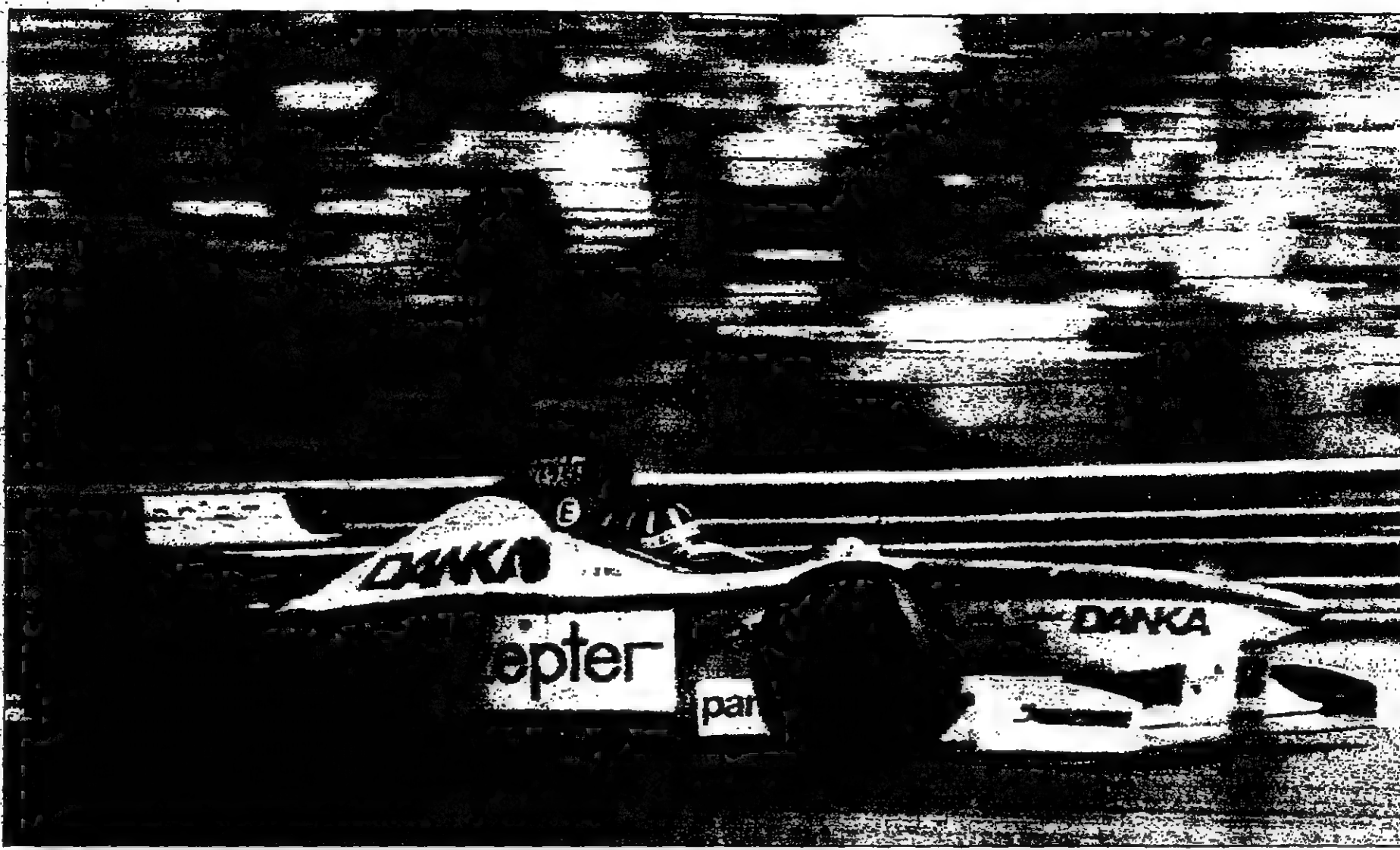
The Canadian, appraised by the knowledge that he had reduced the world drivers' championship lead of fourth-placed Michael Schumacher to three points, readily acknowledged Hill's supremacy. It was a painless, almost pointless, gesture, because moral victories are defined as worthless in a sport that institutionalises selfishness.

The crowd of 200,000, a Ferrari ribbon of humanity wound around the wooded hillsides of the Hungaroring, had a broader perspective. When Hill clambered on the podium to receive his runner-up trophy, they hailed him with unprecedented intensity. The main grandstand, filled with Schumacher supporters who had made the short journey across the German border, rose as one.

"Damon, Damon," they chanted. The Briton looked abashed and paused on the edge of the balcony, waving with his left hand, before he was engulfed into the ritual champagne fight with Villeneuve and Johnny Herbert, whose third-place in the Sauber-Petronas represented his best performance since the Monaco Grand Prix last year.

The acclaim signalled more than sympathy. It was a tribute to the human qualities of a driver who has responded to adversity with equanimity. Hill has a natural humility, a slow, self-deprecating sense of humour. This weekend was a telling response to the cynics who spouted the conventional wisdom that the title had slipped his ambition.

It was impossible to escape the magnitude of the opportunity that was snatched away as he accelerated out of the chicane towards the end of lap 75. At that moment, Arrows were on the verge of their first win in 299 races since they entered Formula One in 1978. Bridgestone, whose tyre development programme was perfectly suited to the twisty, dirty circuit, was preparing to celebrate its



The Arrows-Yamaha driven by Hill had dominated the Hungarian Grand Prix before a cruel twist of fate two laps from the chequered flag prevented him from claiming victory

first victory. So was Yamaha, because usually these things are terminal. The car lasts about half a lap and then it stops. It is a bitter experience to be so close to victory, but we should be celebrating. We have come second in a car that was written off completely."

Hill had been relaxed all weekend. Qualifying third, after surviving a familiar ordeal by inverting, was deeply satisfying. He lingered

over dinner to watch television coverage of his fastest lap on Saturday evening and, once on the grid, he said: "This is an environment with which I am familiar."

He waved in the general direction of a banner that implored him to "go for it, Damon" and then followed popular instruction. His start was perfect, precise and aggressive. He forced his way

past Villeneuve, fought off the Ferrari of Eddie Irvine and then settled down to harry Schumacher, whose tyres blistered quickly.

Once ahead, Hill evoked rapidly forgotten memories of his imperious pace-making in a Williams-Renault. To use Villeneuve's words, "he was flying". He was behind only briefly, when his first pit stop allowed Heinz-Harald Frentzen to endure a cruel trans-

fusion of hope.

The German, under increasing pressure to justify his replacement of Hill at Williams, was leading by 19sec towards the end of lap 28, when the cap exploded from his petrol tank. Fuel, spilling on to the exhaust, produced a sheet of flame. His immediate pit stop merely provided confirmation of the

terminal nature of the damage.

David Coulthard was running consistently within half a second of Villeneuve before his race ended 11 laps from the flag. He deserved better than the electrical failure that crippled his McLaren, but Hill, ultimately, had far greater cause for grievance.

The sense of anticlimax was written in the taut, grim, face of Tom Walkinshaw, the Arrows owner, who recognised that the race yesterday represented a rare chance of equality in a troubled season. "This is one we've lost," he said, in stark contrast to his driver. "I don't see why we should be too happy about it."

"Damon radiated in and we told him to try to take it easy, to keep it in fifth gear, but it was too late. If he had been in fifth, he would have had a big enough lead to have won. He has done a superb job all weekend. The guys put a good car under him and he made the most of it. You can't ask for more than that, but I'm bitterly disappointed." He stopped, aware that Hill was approaching. "Thanks, Tom," Hill said. "Sorry," Walkinshaw said. He was not alone.

### FORMULA ONE HUNGARIAN GP

RESULT: 1, J. Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) 47m 47.96sec; 2, D. Hill (GB, Arrows-Yamaha) 48.07sec; 3, J. Herbert (GB, Sauber-Petronas) 48.45sec; 4, M. Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 48.501sec; 5, R. Schumacher (Ger, Jordan-Peugeot) 48.715sec; 6, S. Nakano (Jpn, Prost-Mugen-Honda) 49.152sec; 7, J. Trulli (It, Prost-Mugen-Honda) 49.152sec; 8, G. Bergs (Aust, Benetton-Renault) 49.046sec; 9, E. Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 49.100sec; 10, J. Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) 49.100sec; 11, J. Herbert (GB, Sauber-Petronas) 49.100sec; 12, T. Marzouk (Lib, Minardi-Ferrari) 49.100sec; 13, M. Salvo (It, Tyrrell-Ford) 49.100sec; 14, D. Coulthard (GB, McLaren-Mercedes) 49.100sec; 15, P. Vanoverbeke (Bel, Tyrrell-Ford) 49.100sec; 16, P. Dirlikov (Den, Arrows-Yamaha) 49.100sec; 17, G. Fisichella (It, Jordan-Peugeot) 49.100sec; 18, J. Frentzen (Ger, Williams-Renault) 49.100sec; 19, R. Benoit (Bel, Stewart-Ford) 49.100sec; 20, M. Heideken (Fin, McLaren-Mercedes) 49.100sec; 21, G. Morikawa (Jpn, Sauber-Petronas) 49.100sec; 22, J. Magnussen (Den, Stewart-Ford) 49.100sec; 23, J. Frentzen (Ger, Williams-Renault) 49.100sec; 24, J. Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) 49.100sec; 25, J. Herbert (GB, Sauber-Petronas) 49.100sec; 26, J. Trulli (It, Prost-Mugen-Honda) 49.100sec; 27, G. Bergs (Aust, Benetton-Renault) 49.100sec; 28, E. Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 49.100sec; 29, J. Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) 49.100sec; 30, J. Herbert (GB, Sauber-Petronas) 49.100sec; 31, M. Salvo (It, Tyrrell-Ford) 49.100sec; 32, D. Coulthard (GB, McLaren-Mercedes) 49.100sec; 33, P. Vanoverbeke (Bel, Tyrrell-Ford) 49.100sec; 34, P. Dirlikov (Den, Arrows-Yamaha) 49.100sec; 35, G. Fisichella (It, Jordan-Peugeot) 49.100sec; 36, J. Frentzen (Ger, Williams-Renault) 49.100sec; 37, R. Benoit (Bel, Stewart-Ford) 49.100sec; 38, M. Heideken (Fin, McLaren-Mercedes) 49.100sec; 39, G. Morikawa (Jpn, Sauber-Petronas) 49.100sec; 40, J. Magnussen (Den, Stewart-Ford) 49.100sec; 41, J. Frentzen (Ger, Williams-Renault) 49.100sec; 42, J. Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) 49.100sec; 43, J. Herbert (GB, Sauber-Petronas) 49.100sec; 44, J. Trulli (It, Prost-Mugen-Honda) 49.100sec; 45, G. Bergs (Aust, Benetton-Renault) 49.100sec; 46, E. Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 49.100sec; 47, J. Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) 49.100sec; 48, J. Herbert (GB, Sauber-Petronas) 49.100sec; 49, M. Salvo (It, Tyrrell-Ford) 49.100sec; 50, D. Coulthard (GB, McLaren-Mercedes) 49.100sec; 51, P. Vanoverbeke (Bel, Tyrrell-Ford) 49.100sec; 52, P. Dirlikov (Den, Arrows-Yamaha) 49.100sec; 53, G. Fisichella (It, Jordan-Peugeot) 49.100sec; 54, J. Frentzen (Ger, Williams-Renault) 49.100sec; 55, R. Benoit (Bel, Stewart-Ford) 49.100sec; 56, M. Heideken (Fin, McLaren-Mercedes) 49.100sec; 57, G. Morikawa (Jpn, Sauber-Petronas) 49.100sec; 58, J. Magnussen (Den, Stewart-Ford) 49.100sec; 59, J. Frentzen (Ger, Williams-Renault) 49.100sec; 60, J. Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) 49.100sec; 61, J. Herbert (GB, Sauber-Petronas) 49.100sec; 62, J. Trulli (It, Prost-Mugen-Honda) 49.100sec; 63, G. Bergs (Aust, Benetton-Renault) 49.100sec; 64, E. Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 49.100sec; 65, J. Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) 49.100sec; 66, J. Herbert (GB, Sauber-Petronas) 49.100sec; 67, M. Salvo (It, Tyrrell-Ford) 49.100sec; 68, D. Coulthard (GB, McLaren-Mercedes) 49.100sec; 69, P. Vanoverbeke (Bel, Tyrrell-Ford) 49.100sec; 70, P. Dirlikov (Den, Arrows-Yamaha) 49.100sec; 71, G. Fisichella (It, Jordan-Peugeot) 49.100sec; 72, J. Frentzen (Ger, Williams-Renault) 49.100sec; 73, R. Benoit (Bel, Stewart-Ford) 49.100sec; 74, M. Heideken (Fin, McLaren-Mercedes) 49.100sec; 75, G. Morikawa (Jpn, Sauber-Petronas) 49.100sec; 76, J. Magnussen (Den, Stewart-Ford) 49.100sec; 77, J. Frentzen (Ger, Williams-Renault) 49.100sec; 78, J. Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) 49.100sec; 79, J. Herbert (GB, Sauber-Petronas) 49.100sec; 80, J. Trulli (It, Prost-Mugen-Honda) 49.100sec; 81, G. Bergs (Aust, Benetton-Renault) 49.100sec; 82, E. Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 49.100sec; 83, J. Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) 49.100sec; 84, J. Herbert (GB, Sauber-Petronas) 49.100sec; 85, M. Salvo (It, Tyrrell-Ford) 49.100sec; 86, D. Coulthard (GB, McLaren-Mercedes) 49.100sec; 87, P. Vanoverbeke (Bel, Tyrrell-Ford) 49.100sec; 88, P. Dirlikov (Den, Arrows-Yamaha) 49.100sec; 89, G. Fisichella (It, Jordan-Peugeot) 49.100sec; 90, J. Frentzen (Ger, Williams-Renault) 49.100sec; 91, R. Benoit (Bel, Stewart-Ford) 49.100sec; 92, M. Heideken (Fin, McLaren-Mercedes) 49.100sec; 93, G. Morikawa (Jpn, Sauber-Petronas) 49.100sec; 94, J. Magnussen (Den, Stewart-Ford) 49.100sec; 95, J. Frentzen (Ger, Williams-Renault) 49.100sec; 96, J. Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) 49.100sec; 97, J. Herbert (GB, Sauber-Petronas) 49.100sec; 98, J. Trulli (It, Prost-Mugen-Honda) 49.100sec; 99, G. Bergs (Aust, Benetton-Renault) 49.100sec; 100, E. Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 49.100sec.



Hill acknowledges the acclaim of the huge crowd after accepting his runner-up trophy at the Hungaroring

### EQUESTRIANISM

## Smith gets revenge by fraction of a second

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR  
IN DUBLIN

ROBERT SMITH, whose inclusion in the team for the European championships later this month will be officially announced today, salvaged British pride after the team's disappointing fifth place in the Nations' Cup on Friday when he and Tees Hanauer won the Kerrygold International Grand Prix yesterday after an outstanding display against the clock in a four-horse jump-off.

Smith, who lost to Eddie Macken, of Ireland, last year in the same event by 0.06sec, turned the tables when he relegated Captain John Ledingham, of Ireland, in Kibbaha — the darling of the Ballsbridge arena — to second place by 0.15sec.

Although 17-year-old Tees Hanauer has won several grands prix in the four years that Smith has been riding him — including last year, at Valkenswaard, in Holland, and the Olympia World Cup qualifier — yesterday's success was particularly rewarding. "I felt cheated last year," Smith, 36, said. "It took me a week to get over it and I missed my aeroplane home afterwards because I was watching a replay of my round at the airport — wondering where Eddie had beaten me."

Michael Whitaker, riding the inexperienced Absalom 2, was the only other Briton in the jump-off. The young horse, competing in his biggest competition to date, coped well with the big fences and sharp turns, but just clipped the penultimate fence to finish fourth.

Whitaker's brother, John, Di Lampard and Geoff Billington are also expected to be named on the team for the European championships.

Paul Duffy, who has been building superb courses all week, excelled himself yesterday with a 14-fence course that put a premium on bold, accurate riding. Only four of the 50 starters achieved clear rounds. "The fences seemed to come up so quickly you didn't have time for a breather," John Whitaker, who had eight faults on Virtual Village Grannush, said.

The middle element of the triple — the ninth fence — caught out Nick Skelton's Showtime and Lampard's Aberrant Dream, who had otherwise faultless rounds. Billington wiped out the memory of his disastrous second round in the Nations' Cup with a confident performance on It's Otto, faulting only at the last — a fence to which Trevor Coyle and Cruising, one of the Irish favourites, also fell victim.

### POLO

## Les Lions savour cup victory

BY JOHN WATSON

LES LIONS, the team put together by Joe Gottschalk, of Switzerland, carried off the Empire Shield for the British World Challenge at Holport, Berkshire, over the weekend when they defeated Labegorce, owned by Hubert Perrodo, over six chukkas, by 14 goals to five.

Labegorce, who last month won the British Open and the Prince Philip Trophy, were power-based on Carlos Gracida, the ten-goal player from Mexico, and Xavier Novillo Astrada, with the Perrodo, father and son, at either end of their line-up.

That combination, however, did not prove as harmonious as the Les Lions quartet, whose backing-up, passing and marking proved to be in top working order throughout the contest.

Ernesto Trots and his No 2, Cody Forsyth, of New Zealand, who was playing substantially above his handicap, were in sparkling form and scored six goals apiece. Gracida has rarely looked so subdued. Max Gottschalk, a comparative newcomer to the game, was particularly impressive in the back slot for Les Lions — he galloped through one mile to slam home one magnificent goal.

The score at half-time was 7-3, but the fourth chukka, when Trots was injured and Astrada found the Les Lions' bags on two occasions, proved the best period for Labegorce. LES LIONS: 1, J. Gottschalk (4); 2, C. Forsyth (6); 3, E. Trots (10); 4, X. Novillo Astrada (6); 5, M. Gottschalk (2). LABEGORCE: 1, H. Perrodo (4); 2, C. Gracida (10); 3, X. Novillo Astrada (6); 4, X. Perrodo (5).

### SWIMMING

## Smith sets her sights on Seville

BY CRAIG LORD

NOT even the East German medal factory at the height of its frenzied success managed to manufacture a *Wunderwunder* capable of winning six European titles, yet that is the tally Michelle Smith will challenge for in Seville next week, the triple Olympic champion from Ireland has finally confirmed.

After months of wondering whether she would be fit enough "to do myself credit",



Smith: European record

Smith, 27, boosted confidence in her own ability on Saturday by wiping the oldest surviving European short-course record, and one of the last remaining to an East German, from the slate in a lone time-trial at a small pool in Cork. Smith's 200 metres butterfly was 0.14sec inside the standard set by Ines Geissler in 1982. Smith said later she would "definitely" be in Seville, where she will defend two titles and has entered a further

four events. No one has ever won more than four individual European titles.

Smith has twice attempted, and failed, to break the world short-course record for 200 metres butterfly during the past two weeks. Those attempts — and the fact that they were made in a short-course, 25-metre pool, when the summer season in swimming is all about long-course — are further anomalies in the Smith saga, which included lingering questions about drugs that arose during her successes in Atlanta.

Smith's progress, which coincided with her partnership with Erik de Bruin, the former athlete suspended for four years until last week for a positive drugs test, has been phenomenal for an event for which she failed to improve between 1990 and 1993.

Smith's effort would have made her the world short-course champion in April, but she has not swum in top international racing since Atlanta. Although she failed to get close to the 2min 5.65sec world record of Mary T Meagher, of the United States, Smith said: "I still think that I can break that record."

Controversy is already assured for Smith in Seville; the European Swimming League has requested that De Bruin attend a hearing to explain why he gave a false identity to medical staff when accompanying Smith to doping control at the European championships two years ago in Vienna. If he refuses, he will not be accredited in Seville.

### ROWING

## Luzio and Wells go one better

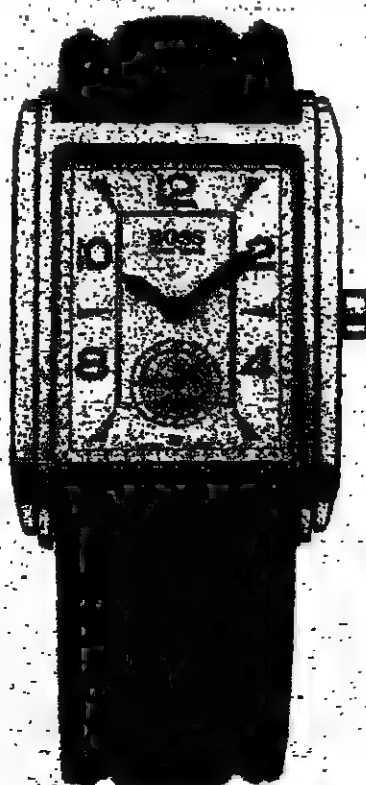
FROM MIKE ROSEWELL  
ROWING CORRESPONDENT  
IN HAZEWINKLE, BELGIUM

THE double scullers, James Ol Luzio and Matthew Wells, outdid Steve Redgrave in the world junior championships in Hazewinkel yesterday. Redgrave, as a junior double with Adam Clift, won a silver medal on the Belgian course in 1980. Di Luzio and Wells went one better to win Britain's first junior gold medal since 1992. Coached by the Hounslow police physical instructor, Darren Whiter, the small British double confounded predictions by overtaking the much heavier Australian favourites, despite a head wind.

The British put the Australians under pressure at 1,000 metres with a sprint, made them falter and took the lead in the last 500 metres to win with clear water. It was a remarkable performance. "Hard as nails," the chief junior coach, Mark Banks, said.

The Union Flag was raised again two hours later when the British men's eight, again generally smaller than their rivals, produced a great finale. The British led at 500 metres before being overtaken by the winners. Romania, who were favourites, and the United States, holding on for bronze. "They did all they were asked to do," Banks said.

Britain's other medal hope, the women's coxless pair, finished fourth and the men's coxed pair, were each fifth. Five final placings for the seven-boat team placed Britain seventh of the 45 countries.



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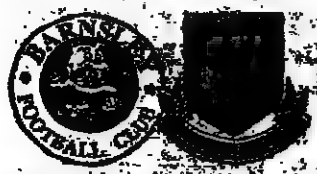






Manager relieved after opening-day defeat dims spotlight on Barnsley

# Wilson keeps faith with homespun ideals



BARNLEY 1  
WEST HAM UNITED 2

By Mark Hamilton

THE sandwich was already turning brittle as Barnsley manager Billy Wilson, the 52-year-old, made a dash for the exit. "Come on, let's do it," he said. The sun shone brightly and he had to squint, but his sweat-soaked face was a picture of relief. "I am now glad this game is out of the way and we can get on with all the hype. Hopefully we can settle down again now," he said.

Defeat had not made him despondent. He had the same look of relief as the crowd enjoying a crafty cigarette after the formality of the wedding ceremony. The cheerful assurance of his season has not been shaken, despite his club's opening Premier League defeat.

Locally, there had been talk of a possible flying start to the season, with three of the first four games at home and the one away match at Crystal Palace, a team, like Barnsley, just promoted.

Since Barnsley secured promotion to the FA Cup, Wilson has spent more time in front of cameras and microphones than with his players. Or perhaps it just seems that way. He has told the same jokes, relayed the same anecdotes and the magnitude of his team's first game had been reinforced and reinforced again.

A game of football is a simple affair, as ephemeral as a British summer, but the build-up to Barnsley's season — and specifically this match at Oakwell on Saturday — had been enormously overplayed. The rhythm of expectation had been played repeatedly on a boom, slack drum and we were left with a headache both from underdog overkill.

Wilson, characteristically, opened the season with approximately the same team that clinched promotion. Only *Thurmer* and *Barnard*



Redfern, second from left, turns away after igniting the celebrations at Oakwell for the first Barnsley goal in the top division. Photograph: Marc Aspland

supplemented a winning combination, so signings from Macedonia, Slovenia and Germany were left to pass around the sun-cream on the substitutes' bench.

Obviously, when so much has been invested in a game of football, the absolute logic is that it will descend into bathos and it did. The streets thronged with life, balloons were sent skywards, the crowd sang gloriously, the match was pretty awful.

It started well enough. Wilkinson's deep cross and *Redfern* instinctively redirected it across *Mikloko*. It

was fitting that *Redfern*, the club captain and a Yorkshireman, should score the first Barnsley goal in the top division.

Barnsley have two fine proponents of a long, forgotten art in Bullock and Hendrie. They are both expert dribblers, able to caress the ball with their instep and move gracefully past players of greater physical stature. In the kick-and-rush heat of a summer afternoon, their strategy was pleasing, though not particularly incisive.

The visiting team showed nothing but bruising endeavour in the first half, but found a rhythm after

the interval. A hopeful cross was met bravely by Harrison and he lifted it into the Barnsley net. Watson, who had seemed nervous in goal, had recklessly left his line and had to watch it sail over his head and outstretched arms.

West Ham had two Frank Lampards on the bench. Frank Lampard Jr, son of the former West Ham defender who is now assistant manager, was sent on to add pep to an already industrious midfield. He played a simple pass at the halfway line and then moved stealthily through the Barnsley defence to meet a cross from

Lazaridis. Lampard scuffed the ball, but this served to place it cruelly beyond the diving Watson.

Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, said afterwards that a tactical switch at half-time had guaranteed the victory. "We over-loaded the midfield after the break and took control of the game. Barnsley worked hard. No one will come here and have an easy game. I can promise them that," he said.

Wilson agreed that his young goalkeeper was to blame for the first West Ham goal. "In this division, you can't give anyone half a chance, because they will take it.

The keeper made the one mistake and the ball was in the back of the net," he said.

*Al fresco* press conferences will remain collectors' items at Barnsley this season and Wilson now has to work long hours on the training ground to ensure that home defeats are of the same scarceness.

**BARNLEY 1-2** D Watson — A de Zeeuw, P Sheff (sub: C Maricle, 80th), A Moses — E Eddowes, M Bullock (sub: A Liddell, 84), M Redfern, D Barnard — J Hendrie, P Wilson (sub: G Hirst, 85).  
**WEST HAM UNITED 2-1** Mikloko — M Pezer, R Ferdinand, S Potts — T Bradshaw (sub: S Loderick, 46), S Loderick, J Morris, M Hughes — Berhove (sub: F Lampard, 76) — J Harrison, P Mason (sub: D Turner, 86).  
Referee: A Wilson.

## Blackburn take chance to revel in Hodgson's happy return



BLACKBURN ROVERS 1  
DERBY COUNTY 0

By Peter Robinson

IT WAS more summer like than football match. There was something about the time armed with a water pistol, parachutists, pom-pom girls and, I did you not, a man with a bag on his head juggling mallets. Had the bouncy castle not been booked by a family 800 yards down the road, that, presumably, would have been set up as well.

True, it was Roy Hodgson's fiftieth birthday, but that was not the reason for the party atmosphere at Ewood Park on Saturday, nor was it a spontaneous display of Lancastrian *joie de vivre* — no, Blackburn was celebrating the start of the football season, the best day of the season, the day when the sun shines, the pitch glistens, when every new player is a hero and when everything is possible.

Blackburn Rovers won — of course they did, it was in the script — but they did so with gentlemanly decency, allowing Derby County to leave with heads held high. Nobody was reading too much into victory or defeat, quite rightly, and everybody accentuated the positive.

Jim Smith, for example. "We had a strong case for a point," the Derby manager said. "We started nervously, Blackburn played well and you could see the goal coming. After that, it was our game. I thought we had a case for a penalty... and so on and so forth. He did not say 'but never mind, eh', but he didn't need to, it was understood.

Any anger was confined to half-time, which began with his players trooping off the field a goal down and ended with them returning revived and reorganised, to the obvious surprise of their hosts. In the first half, Blackburn had been very good — too good, according to Hodgson, still settling in as their manager — and Gallacher's 21st-minute goal, a header from Ripley's corner, was less than their deserved. After the break, Derby dominated, with Burton and Ward, two strikers, replacing the curious pair of Simpson and Carbon, a winger and a defender, up front.

Barton thus made his debut, one of eight on the day. Rather more interesting was the sight of an Australian, a Swiss, a Frenchman and, later, two Swedes lining up against an Estonian, a Croat, a Dutchman, a Dane, an Italian and later a Jamaican in what used to be

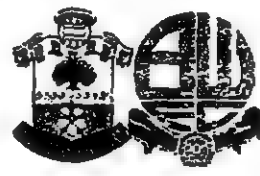
called the English first division. Hodgson, the ultimate continental manager, played good old English 4-4-2, but then there's always one.

Of those who got a game, Ernie (Ibby) looked silky smooth when he got the ball on the Derby right, which was not often. Filan (Australia) impressed, making one fine save from Hunt, Henschel (Switzerland) was arguably the best player on the field, Valery (France) a dependable right back and Dahlin (Sweden), a latecomer, did enough to please Hodgson, who, on the evidence of his press conference, is a consummate performer in his own right. The line about Malmro beating Sundsvall 4-0 away on his fortieth birthday was a nice one, slipped into a monologue that appeared to praise everyone but his man.

In fact, there appeared to be only one long face in Blackburn on Saturday, belonging to the young fan on Mill Hill station wearing a brand new Rovers shirt with the words "Le Saux" on the back. "I've heard the jokes, all day," he said ruefully. "I even tried to pull the letters off this morning, but I couldn't." Oh yes, and he missed his train.

**BLACKBURN ROVERS 1-0** P. Sheff (sub: S. Loderick, 46), S. Loderick, J. Morris, M. Hughes — Berhove (sub: F. Lampard, 76) — J. Harrison, P. Mason (sub: D. Turner, 86).  
**DERBY COUNTY 0-1** M. Pezer, R. Ferdinand, S. Potts — T. Bradshaw (sub: S. Loderick, 46), S. Loderick, J. Morris, M. Hughes — Berhove (sub: F. Lampard, 76) — J. Harrison, P. Mason (sub: D. Turner, 86).  
Referee: D. Elford.

## Blake strike proves sufficient to subdue sterile Southampton



SOUTHAMPTON 0  
BOLTON WANDERERS 1

By Nick Szczepanik

IT WAS business as usual for Bolton Wanderers on Saturday as they began life back in the FA Cup Premier League more or less where they left off in the National League first division. That they did not win more emphatically was to the credit of Paul Jones, the Southampton goalkeeper, who defied the visitors time and again in the second half.

"We worked extremely hard in very hot conditions," Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, said. "We kept a clean sheet and created a lot of opportunities. The longer the game went on, the more we grew in stature and composure."

Bolton could, in fact, have been ahead in the first minute as McGinlay made room for himself with a deft touch, but he shot wide, as did Thompson seventeen minutes later, and it seemed they might pay when Southampton mounted late first-half pressure; Magilton took on the mantle of the injured Le Tissier as sprayer-in-chief of long passes and made sure that Williams, the promising 19-year-old debutant, saw a lot of the ball on the left.

Unfortunately, when they got within range of the penalty area, a high cross was the sum total of their ideas and Bolton coped comfortably, their own attacks fewer but more incisive. Three minutes before half-time, Sellers found Blake, just inside, and he drove a

low shot under Jones and into the net.

David Jones, the new Southampton manager, blamed his defenders for a faulty defensive trap. "We were doing okay — just starting to take charge — until we made a stupid mistake at the back," he said. "Then you end up chasing the game. We had one or two half-chances that, with a bit more care, we might have tucked away. What concerned me was that they had three one-against-ones in the second half."

In each case, Jones, the goalkeeper, bought by his namesake from his former club, Stockport County, repelled Bolton's efforts, saving his most spectacular save for Thompson's low drive, which he fingered to the foot of a post; but Southampton will be as worried that they did not create a clear-cut chance of their own in the entire

match. Ostensad looked an especially forlorn figure in the absence of the type of through-passes that were the speciality of Berkovic, the Israeli international now at West Ham. Too often, the ball went sideways before the inevitable high cross, slanted onto the head of Taggart, described by Todd as "colossal".

"They never got behind us," Todd agreed. "Southampton will be looking at themselves and thinking that they didn't create. We did, which is important. We have a good blend and we'll keep trying to play in the right manner, by moving the ball."

Jones insisted that he was not downhearted, although his morose expression contradicted his words. "There's an awful long way to go," he said. "The experts have written us off anyway; it's down to us to prove them wrong. A chance to do just that comes on Wednesday when Southampton visit Manchester United; Jones will hope that his team can translate their excellent home record against the champions into a good result at Old Trafford. Well, there's no harm in hoping."

**SOUTHAMPTON 0-1** P. Jones — M. Oakley, K. Morrison, R. Dwyer, J. Todd — R. Sauer (sub: U. van der Hart, 80th), J. Magilton, M. Magilton, A. Williams (sub: R. Davies, 73) — M. Evans (sub: S. Johnson, 70), E. Ostensad.  
**BOLTON WANDERERS 1-0** M. Evans (sub: N. Cox, G. Bergsson, G. Taggart, R. Elliott — J. Pothol, P. Fenderson, A. Thompson, S. Sellers — N. Blake, J. McGinlay.  
Referee: M. Dodgson.

## Humble Lombardo makes stately Palace entrance



Lombardo counter-attacks

OF ALL the foreign imports that now saturate the FA Cup Premier League, there is something about bald or balding Italians something that excites the passions, stirs the emotions and inspires wonderment, something that similarly, and often subsequently, provokes dislike, generates distrust and raises the hackles.

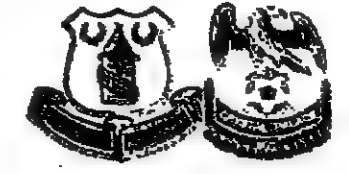
First, there was Gianluca Vialli, the shaven-headed idol of Chelsea, who entranced Stamford Bridge with his grace and guile but soon whinged long and loud when his first-team place was lost. Then, there was Fabrizio Ravanelli, the crop-haired "White Feather" of Middlesbrough, who conquered Teesside with his gut of goals, but quickly wanted out when relegation was confirmed.

On Saturday at Goodison Park, Attilio Lombardo, latterly of Juventus, presented himself for

inspection with Crystal Palace. He is 31, smooth of pale, approaching the twilight of an illustrious career and joined Palace — certainly for the Premier League drop, according to most pre-season pundits — only a week ago.

He had, if reports were to be believed, demanded a mansion, a maid and a butler to help to ease his transition from Serie A to Selhurst Park and perhaps soften the blow when Palace return from whence they came, the National League. He then, apparently, reconsidered, pledged his allegiance and concluded the £1.6 million deal — minus the stately pile and servants.

"That was the biggest load of cobblers I've ever heard," Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, said. "He's not a prima donna, he's not over here just to earn a few bob. He's a professional in every sense."



EVERTON 1  
CRYSTAL PALACE 2

By Russell Kempson

Lombardo sat on the right of midfield, collecting the scraps from Palace's defensive resilience and launching counter-attacks with stealth and intelligence. It was a gentle, encouraging work-out, against an uncoordinated and unimaginative Everton side and appeared, at least initially, to fill the void left by Hopkin's summer defection to Leeds United.

"We needed someone to break forward from that midfield role," Coppell said. "I gave him that freedom, but he is so diligent that he also dropped back to tackle when needed." Good players are invariably associated with key moments, too. Lombardo flicked in the opening goal in the 34th minute, from Warhurst's chipped pass, and was brought down by Stuart in the second half to earn a penalty, from which Dyer confidently extended the Palace lead.

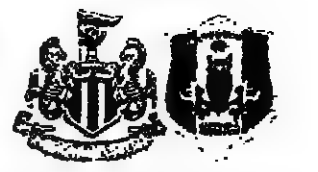
Though Everton dominated, it was with little conviction. Howard Kendall's first game in charge, at the start of his third spell at Goodison, was not auspicious. Neither was Speed's first match as captain, nor Ferguson's first outing of a new five-year contract, nor the debuts of Oster, Thomas and Farrelly. Only Bilk, smooth and safe on his introduction, had any cause for minor satisfaction.

Lofting the ball persistently into the area for Ferguson produced a defiant response from Palace and only once did the play work, when he headed in Stuart's 85th-minute free kick. It was otherwise predictable fare. How Kendall must have wished Ravanelli, Ince or Ferdinand had accepted his close-season advances.

Lombardo stole the show on a Mediterranean afternoon on Merseyside. How he fares in deep midwinter, when Palace are under pressure and Selhurst Park is awash, will prove more relevant. Bald is beautiful... but for how long?

**EVERTON 1-2** N. Souttar — A. Thomas (sub: M. Smith, 46th), D. Watson, S. Bile, T. Phelan — C. Thompson (sub: N. Barry, 64) — J. Oler (sub: C. Short, 67), G. Speed, G. Farrelly — G. Stuart, D. Ferguson.  
**CRYSTAL PALACE 2-1** K. Miller — K. Muscat, D. Tuttle, M. Edwards, A. Lingham, D. Gordon — A. Lombardo (sub: G. Vialli, 81), A. Roberts, S. Rodgers (sub: J. Furlong, 78).  
Referee: S. Dunn.

## Newcastle shaped by Asprilla's elasticity



NEWCASTLE UNITED 2  
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 1

By Ivo Tennant

FOR Kenny Dalglish, there has been no respite this summer from pesky sniping. His tactics, his transfer dealings and his supposed submission to the bean counters have not found universal favour on Tyneside. Come the kick-off, so fluent was Newcastle's passing, so integrated their five newcomers, that there was no necessity for any further carping.

Not even a bicycle kick by Carbone, for Sheffield Wednesday, that will be a contender for goal of the season, let alone of the month, could prevent this victory. Asprilla, who has to carry the attack in the absence of Shearer and Ferdinand, scored both goals, the second with the kind of sharp finishing not always apparent in August. His celebratory cartwheeling was true to type.

The one chant for Kevin Keegan, early in the afternoon, drifted away on the breeze. There was nothing quixotic about Newcastle's football and some of the inter-passing was comparable with Dalglish's Liverpool of old. In Pistone, he has acquired a defender who does not have recourse to the occasional crude clearances seen from the absent Peacock.

In goal, Given saved one free kick from Pembroke at full stretch but had all too little to do. Tomasson, the Dane, inadvertently created Asprilla's second goal. Ketsbaia, the much-travelled Georgian, also had a part in this and he, too, will be all the sharper once he has picked up the pace of the English game. Pearce was, well, simply Pearce.

Perhaps it was not surprising that Asprilla should appear so characteristically elastic in his movement. During the summer, he has been playing in his native



Asprilla: two timely goals

Colombia and, unlike Ravanelli, was not penalised for returning late for pre-season training. At one stage during the summer, his agent thought he had set up a transfer to Parma, but negotiations came to nothing. Nor did the assumption that Dalglish would like to offload him, anyway. Now, what with injuries and departures, there should be greater opportunities for him at St James' Park. The occasional sullen moods of last season have, for the time being, gone.

"The players who have come here were well educated at their previous clubs," Dalglish said. He likes to talk about education and wishes that his academically, had matched up to what he gleaned in a footballing sense. His appreciation of skill still extends to that of the opposition. "Carbone's goal was tremendous," he said. "Nobody would have stopped it."

Sheffield Wednesday, for whom Di Canio did not appear until the second half, were understandably unaware of the shape and, indeed, some of the faces in Newcastle's team. David Platt, their manager, had not seen three of the new players before, other than on television. Above all, his defence was taken unawares by the number of times Albert moved incisively into attack.

Had not Pressman come up with a number of sprawling saves, the margin of victory would have been much more considerable. As for Di Canio, Wednesday is his sixth club. "I am looking positively at us having a big season and, like Newcastle, qualifying for Europe," he said.

On Wednesday, Newcastle play the first leg of their European Cup qualifying match against Croatia Zagreb at St James' Park. This competition is not the least reason why Asprilla is still at the club. He will find this to be a somewhat more testing encounter. All the while, he is aware of the presence of Shearer, even though on Saturday he was confined to a seat 20 yards from the touchline.

**NEWCASTLE UNITED 2-1** S. Bile — S. Watson, A. Roberts, S. Rodgers — R. D. Barry, T. Kett, J. B. B. — A. Asprilla, J. D. Tomasson.  
**SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 1-2** K. Muscat, D. Tuttle, M. Edwards, A. Lingham, D. Gordon — A. Lombardo (sub: G. Vialli, 81), A. Roberts, S. Rodgers (sub: J. Furlong, 78).  
Referee: S. Dunn.



**BY BILL EDGAR**



BY KEVIN MCCARRA

By PAT GIBLIN

By BRIAN DOOGAN

## RESULTS FROM THE WEEKEND

**Other results, page 36**

**FORECAST:** **Half-day:** No  
claims required — earnings are  
sent automatically — forecast is  
good/bad, six actual claims and  
ten no-claim claims. Full time:  
Telephone claims for 24 hrs.  
although earnings sent auto-  
matically — forecast is very  
good; nine score claims and ten

**October 25**  
**Friets 70**  
**Camford 119**  
**368**

**Peters 66**  
**Gallagher 80**  
**Spence 116**

**(act. 4-4 after 90min.)**



'If played in February, this match would send fans home early to kick the dog'

## Teddy pays penalty for spot decision

Well, I have to say, the decision of the Tottenham Hotspur board to award a regular chance to the Tottenham Hotspur team yesterday in the match against Manchester United — a decision made in the afternoon sun — but I suspect most of them were getting up out of habit and just second-guessing the spot decision of the referee. It was a funny afternoon for crowd stuff.

The referee, from Hampshire, No he wasn't. I checked the programme, he was from Essex. You'll never meet Sol Campbell? Mmmm. Self-evident, surely?

Spend a few weeks away from football crowds and you have no idea what they're going on about. What was this "You lost, you lost" chant, accompanied by arms pointed accusingly at Tottenham?

Not a popular chap at White Hart Lane yesterday, Teddy. His own team wasn't particularly impressed, his manager uttered faint praise, and as for the locals — well, it was blood-on-the-curse time. Bored whenever he touched the ball, cheered when his penalty kick bounced hilariously off the post, booed even when fouled by his former-teammate, Rasmus Vega, in the opening minutes. Good sportsmanship it wasn't.

Last year I was at Brighton when a famous old boy, Garry Nelson, came on for Torquay United to generous welcome-back applause. No such luck for Teddy at Tottenham yesterday.

day, where evidently they have never heard that bitterness is, ultimately, a self-destructive emotion. It's amazing there was no sacrificial pyre of old, treasured Sheringham memorabilia in the car park.

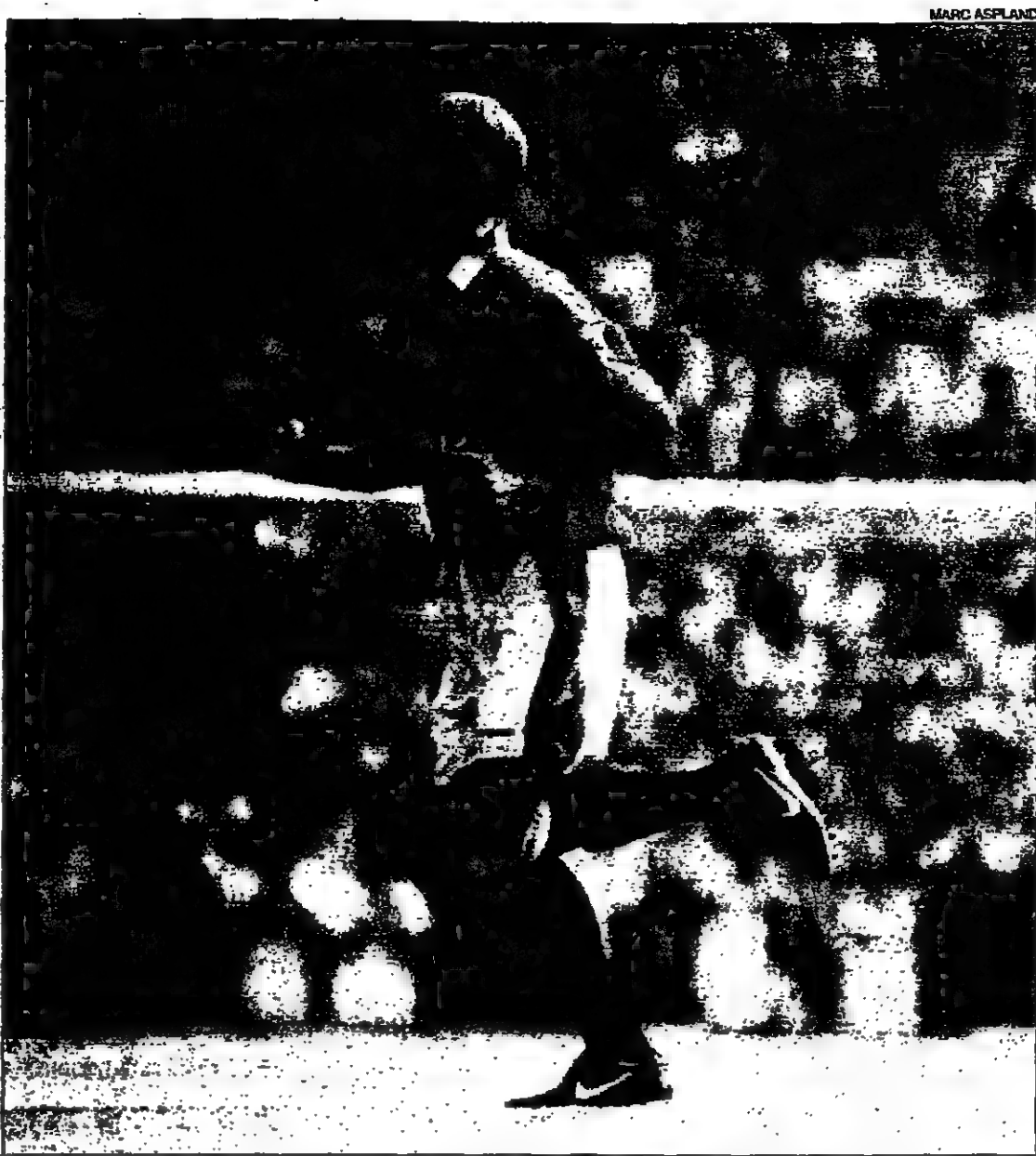
If the Poor Old Teddy story gave the match an edge, not much else did, except that by a happy chance I placed a bet on Manchester United to win 2-0 and, by further lucky chance, didn't tear up the slip when no score looked possible.

On another personal note, I was of course thrilled to see the excellent Frenchman, David Ginola, taking centre stage for Tottenham, doing lots of Eusebio-style, alaloms through mob-handled defenders, and showing off his new longer, blonder hair, pinned up in a fetching hair-clip.

But Tottenham's other recruit, Les Ferdinand, was stodgy and unremarkable, and all the home team's sterling efforts in the first half to push goalwards ended in groans. You know the kind of thing. Yes, yes, yes, groan. Yes, yes, yes, nearly, groan. Hang on, what's this, oh no, whoops, groan. Could it be, no it can't, groan.

An enormous crowd buzz was maintained throughout this pathetic affair, but only because the whole country is revived from its summer holidays and fed up with cricket. The same match played in the drizzle of February would find supporters going home early to kick the dog and sulk in a cupboard.

But it was nice to see those stolid Spurs fans so animated, if only in rather illogical hatred of their former hero. The best thing about the start of a season is that teams such as Spurs can imagine they're as good as anybody, which must be lovely for them. True, this charitable clean-



Home and away: Sheringham returns to White Hart Lane amid a chorus of jeers yesterday

state system is based on strategic amnesia, but it works.

It works for players, too. Chaps such as Ginola can have a fresh start — coming to a new club to hear a resounding "Gin-Ola, Gin-Ola", a cheer borrowed from Newcastle, where it just happened to be uttered during the last six months of last season.

Guessing who would be the man of the match was pretty easy, for once. Sol Campbell — the man I'd never met — was so extraordinary in his job as last-line-of-defence that he seemed sort of supernatural. Skinny Ian Walker, waiting in the outside mits behind that Trojan Campbell,

was forever in the situation of the weaker doubles partner in badminton, saying "No, no, you have it. Oh, well done! No I didn't want it. You go. I'm OK. I've got these mits to take care of. Er, excellent, thanks."

Sheringham, as everyone knows, was not the man of the match, just its focal point. But in retrospect, perhaps he should be congratulated for not bursting into tears. It really is very stupid of Tottenham supporters to hate him. His transfer may be the worst thing they could imagine in their most horrific nightmares, but it's still just football, and it's still just part of life's rich tapestry. Personally, I've been thinking of little Martin

Fowler in *EastEnders*, on whose bedroom wall a pencil portrait of Teddy will now be draped with black.

Sorrow I can understand, but this rage is completely ridiculous.

On the other hand, Sheringham's glorious missed penalty was pure delight for a number of reasons too complex to examine. Sheringham decided to take on the crowd, and he lost. The other week at the fourth Test at Headingley, a group on a stag night turned up in togas and laurel wreaths, Roman fashion. Had such a group been at White Hart Lane yesterday, the thumbs-down for Teddy could hardly have taken on a more nasty or vicious significance.

## Super rich mask an underclass of beggar clubs

FOR ALL the money swirling around British football, the country's clubs are still haemorrhaging cash — at a level likely to be around £140 million this season alone. Stories of Manchester United's multimillion-pound profit disguise the much sorer tale across the rest of the Football League, where seven clubs in ten finished the season in the red.

Deloitte & Touche, the City accountancy firm, last week diagnosed the financial health of football clubs in a 64-page report that makes grim reading. More than two-thirds of the money in the game is going to clubs in the FA Carling Premiership, it said, and this allure is prompting many smaller clubs to gamble on promotion by spending millions on new players and new stadiums.

This, it warns, is creating a wide profitability spectrum, with superclubs at one end and a league of financial basket-cases at the other.

There was a time when clubs that lost the funding battle could rely on being bailed out by a local businessman seeking the kudos of owning a football club. However, as Millwall illustrated, the clubs hitting the rocks nowadays are bowing out with the kind of losses that only multimillionaires can afford to make good.

Deloitte & Touche found that smaller clubs cannot rely on banks to lend them money. Although banks are happy to support the game in general, they concentrate their funds among the big clubs. The Bosman ruling, which lets out-of-contract players move "free" to any club in Europe, means their smaller cousins can no longer rely on selling their players as a last resort. The alternative, it says, is cash from financial supporters, who come in three shades.

First, the "serious investors", who will buy shares in Manchester United in the same way they would buy shares in ICI — because they consider it undervalued and expect it to grow. Then come the "punters" — those who would invest in Millwall in the same way that they would place a £50 bet on the hunch that the struggling club will revive and find its way into the big time within two years.

Last come the local businessmen, "emotional investors". These have proven the most valuable safety net of all. Their payback is not material, they do it for the love of the game and it is this type of support that has helped keep football as we know it in this country intact. These can range from the savoury of non-league teams to the likes of Mohammed

Al-Fayed, whose enthusiasm for snapping up British institutions led to his £30 million acquisition of Fulham three months ago.

Gerry Boon, who compiled the Deloitte & Touche report, warns that the availability of these local heroes is drying up. "He for she will not mind a £25,000-a-year loss," Boon said of his former saviour, "but when he's being asked to find a quarter of a million a year, like the way it's heading now, it's a different story."

There is one possible escape route. Looking five to ten years into the future, Boon expects the bonds between television companies and football to have become so strong that many Premiership clubs will become wholly-owned by media firms or large advertisers. This would leave the same amount of money chasing fewer clubs and give the smaller ones more of a chance.

FRASER NELSON

## SPORTS LETTERS

### Other ways to enhance English cricket

From Mr Ned Paul

Sir, Having proposed one Americanism — the adoption of conference play — in their blueprint for the game (report, August 6) the England and Wales Cricket Board should take on another, the "bar" system. First-class counties should enter into a contractual relationship with minor counties to act as development squads. Thus, "Triple-A" Hertfordshire might be the reserve team for "First-Class" Essex and this would be repeated across the country. Thirty-eight county boards, as at present, is an awkward

number, however. Nineteen first-class and 19 Triple-A clubs is a possibility but expansion to 20 at each level would be better. An obvious place to put one of the expansion first-class sides is in the Thames Valley "sitcom triangle" area. Whether you call this Berkshire, Buckinghamshire or Oxfordshire is moot, but the potential for corporate sponsorship and corporate hospitality in this area is incontrovertible.

Yours etc,  
NED PAUL,  
37 Sandycombe Road,  
Twickenham, Middlesex.

### Simple solution

From Mr Peter Abraham

Sir, I think that everybody will agree that it is somewhat foolish for two major events in the cricket calendar to be scheduled so close to each other that some of the most important participants — Robert Croft and Nasser Hussain — will be playing a NatWest Trophy semi-final the day after they complete a Test match.

As Alan Lee correctly states (July 31), this is something which should be addressed by the authorities concerned. It does, however, strike me that a simple solution has been overlooked.

Given the situation, and mindful of the fact that Warwickshire wished to postpone their semi-final by a day to avoid a clash with the first game of the football season at Villa Park, would it not have been appropriate to swap the two semi-finals?

In doing this, Warwickshire and Sussex would play on the day after the Test, thus avoiding the clash with the football, and Essex and Glamorgan would play on the following day, giving the Test players a day off between the two games. Yours faithfully,  
PETER ABRAHAM,  
3a Llanbleddian Gardens,  
Cardiff.

### Worrying precedent

From Mr Nick Economou

Sir, Weren't Steve Waugh's actions at Taunton (report, August 4), in response to taunts from a small band of intoxicated spectators last weekend, extraordinary? What would happen if English captains applied the same doctrine at the Sydney Cricket Ground, the Adelaide Oval, or the most famous of sporting bloodhouses, the Melbourne Cricket Ground?

Voluminous abuse of the English of a personal nature is almost obligatory behaviour at these venues — especially when the World Series Cup one-day is being played under lights.

I find Waugh's actions a little perplexing, and I fear that there is a slight ring of double standards in the Australian response to the Taunton crowd. Having a captain responsible for the eviction of rowdies sets a worrying precedent. I hope we don't all have to behave ourselves down under in summers to come, lest the England captain threatens to have Bay 13 or the Hill evacuated of boorish boo-boys.

Yours etc,  
NICK ECONOMOU,  
24 Bordeaux Avenue,  
Blackburn,  
Victoria 3130, Australia.  
Nick.Economou@btinternet.com

### Benefits for all

From Mr John MacLaren

Sir, The stupidity of present grand prix motor racing extends far beyond the first corner (Sports Letters, August 4). The fact that the aerodynamics, resulting from the present construction formula, has almost eliminated overtaking in many parts of most circuits is equally ridiculous.

Proponents of the sport point to the design benefits passed down to the ordinary motorist. Since most of us motor on bumpy surfaces, the smooth surfaces of race circuits are unrealistic: if tracks were required to incorporate a good proportion of realistically bumpy mileage, racing car designs would be forced to have more ground clearance and suspension travel. This would result in the development of improved suspension technology for the ultimate benefit of us all.

Yours etc,  
JOHN MACLAREN,  
Bee Close House, Little Preston,  
Dorset, Northamptonshire.  
jmac@compuserve.com

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-762 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## Coleman's question of retirement

Do you think that, if the BBC sends David Coleman to cover enough retirement stories, he might take the hint? On Saturday afternoon, there was precious little sign of it as Linford Christie rewarded his temporary employer with his own little scoop — our greatest sprinter had run his last race.

Was it, Coleman asked, a question of the body no longer doing what the mind tells it to do? Not for Christie it wasn't, but that would certainly explain some of the problems that Coleman has encountered at the world championships.

These are nothing to do with the throat problem that turned him into a dalek for the first few days, or his endearing tendency for the inopportune, which, early on Saturday morning, led him to describe Lida Simon's bronze medal in the women's marathon as a "triumph of guts". For those who managed to miss this breakfast-time treat, Simon had been physically sick after missing a drink.

No, these are real mistakes (sometimes wildly), nationalities confused (increasingly forgivable) and finishes that are called wrong. Together with a commentary style ever more dependent on simply



MATTHEW BOND  
TV ACTION REPLAY

stating the obvious, one can only hope that Coleman — for the sake of his own reputation — wakes up one day soon in the same frame of mind as Christie. "That's it, no more."

One of the best reasons for stepping aside is that the succession is in place. Stuart Storey and Paul Dickenson have had a splendid week covering track and field, while Brendan Foster has been outstanding. He did sterling work during both marathons, while his tactical reading of Paula Radcliffe's gallant run turned the women's 5,000 metres into a veritable Greek tragedy.

Outside the commentary box, the BBC's coverage from Athens has shown the corporation's new-found competitive edge. Its response to the comprehensive coverage offered by Eurosport, the satellite channel, was to all but match it with live coverage both in the unrelenting early morning and in the prime-time early evening.

The result was that Steve Cram, Tim Hutchings and the rest of the lively Eurosport team gained the upper hand but twice — once on Friday afternoon, when BBC Sport could not decide whether the Test match or Jonathan Edwards was more important, and again on Saturday, when a combination of football results on BBC1 and cricket on BBC2 ensured that the satellite channel at least had Great Britain's qualifying round of the 4 x 100 metres to itself.

In the presentation studio, Des Lynam has had a lovely week surrounded by people who are much better at athletics than he is but nothing like as good at broadcasting. "Need a bit of a cough, David?" he inquired solicitously, as Moorcroft's summary gurgled to an unscheduled stop. While Lynam plays the Everyman (why no gold medals for Britain? why no world records?), his revolving panel of ageing athletes (Christie,

Sally Gunnell and Roger Black) have treated the occasion as an audition for a possible broadcasting career in the future. Black looks the safest bet.

Fearless in some respects ("Why are most top sprinters black?" he asked on Saturday, causing Moorcroft to look even more startled than usual), there is one subject Lynam positively tip-toes around, ignoring the beauty pageant taking place in the women's long jump-pit. Foster turned his attention to the javelin.

"That Joanna Stone," he observed, "not your typical thrower, is she?" Gunnell, who knew exactly what he was talking about, gave him an old-fashioned look and launched into a complex discussion about musculature and throwing arms. That will reach him to mix it with an Essex Lady.

ITV experienced agony and ecstasy with its Formula One coverage yesterday. The ecstasy was Damon Hill coming within a lap of winning the Hungarian Grand Prix. The agony was that just a few seconds before Hill overtook Michael Schumacher and went into the lead... ITV went to its first commercial break. They will have enjoyed that round at the BBC.

This week in THE TIMES



■ Tomorrow The Fastnet Race offers Britain a last hope of Admiral's Cup glory

■ Wednesday Who will be heading for Lord's and the NatWest Trophy final — Essex or Glamorgan?

■ Thursday The world's finest golfers gather for the last major tournament of the year, the US PGA

■ Friday Nelson Pessoa returns to the scene of his historic showjumping victory at the Hickstead Derby

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GOLF: UNITED STATES ARE DELAYED BUT EDGE EVER CLOSER TO AN OVERWHELMING VICTORY

# Rally keeps Walker Cup hopes alive

FROM JOHN HOPKINS  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT  
IN SCARSDALE, NEW YORK

GARY WOLSTENHOLME and Justin Rose staged a stirring finish in their four-somes match against Randy Leen and Chris Wollmann on the morning of the second day of the Walker Cup at Quaker Ridge yesterday.

Wolstenholme and Rose rallied from one down after the 11th to defeat Leen and Wollmann by 2 and 1.

This made sure that the match remained alive until the afternoon. Nonetheless, the United States held a lead of 11½-4½ over Great Britain and Ireland and needed only one point from the singles to regain the trophy that they last won in 1993.

It was a very disappointing performance from a team widely believed to be the best prepared ever and one of the most capable. One player after another failed to reproduce the form shown at home, while the Americans demonstrated both the accuracy and control needed to play well on a course as narrow and demanding as Quaker Ridge.

One of golf's oldest laws is that at amateur level par golf is good enough to win at matchplay more often than not. It was demonstrated again in the second day's four-somes, which the United States won 3-1. By one estimate, Great Britain and Ireland were a cumulative 41 over par for the two days of four-somes.

Wolstenholme and Rose could be excused the criticism aimed at their team-mates, for their play in the four-somes on the second morning was courageous and skilful. They are a potent force when on song: Wolstenholme loves the spotlight and the fact that he is by far the shortest hiter on either side does not bother him; Rose, after hitting one of the wildest drives in Walker Cup history on the first morning, continued to demonstrate a maturity that is remarkable in one who is only 11 days past his seventeenth birthday.

Wollmann and Leen were three times one hole ahead and each time were hauled back to be level by the turn. Wolstenholme and Rose regained holes either by holing long putts or chipping in. The two Englishmen took the lead for the first time in the match on the 15th, where Wolsten-



Watson, of Great Britain and Ireland, has to play out of the trees after hitting a wayward tee shot. Photograph: David Cannon / ALLSPORT

holme holed an eight-foot putt that curled viciously for a bogey five that was better than the Americans' six.

Then, on the 16th, Wolstenholme hit a magnificent shot from a fairway bunker to nine feet and Rose sank the putt. All week, Rose has had to cope with questions from Americans of the order of "how does it feel to be Britain's Tiger Woods" and now he behaved like Woods. He clenched his fist and gave a perfect demonstration of a Woods gesture that is becoming increasingly familiar.

It was essential that the British got off to a good start early yesterday morning and

this is what happened. They won the opening hole in two of the four matches and halved it in the other two. Suddenly, there was a hope, albeit a faint one, that the overnight deficit of five points could be reduced sufficiently to make the 36th match into a half-decent contest.

Yet it did not last long. Steven Young and Craig Watson were comfortably defeated by John Harris, the senior statesman of the American team, and Brad Elder, 3 and 2. Harris, competing in his third Walker Cup, has been an inspiration to young team-mates destined for the professional ranks. Calm and

competitive, he guided Elder throughout their match and the two of them were only one over par when the match was concluded on the 16th green. Watson and Young were six over par.

Then Barclay Howard and Graham Rankin ran into some fine golf from Buddy Marucci and Jerry Courville. Howard, who was expected to fulfil the same role for the British as Harris did for the United States, never found his game in the heat. Despite birdieing the 1st and the 9th, they were three down at the turn to Courville and Marucci. Few could have lived with the old hands, who were one

under par when they won on the 14th green. It was left to David Park and Richard Coughlan, who had narrowly lost their foursome on Saturday and were paired together again, to try and add a little more respectability to the British scoreline. Both scrapped doggedly against Duke Delcher and Steve Scott. Though they won the 17th to get back to all-square when Park holed a short putt, the match ended disappointingly — and yet somehow typically — as the visitors' play in this match. After a wild drive by Coughlan, the Americans won the hole and the match with nothing better than a par.

## DETAILS

**RESULTS (United States names first):** First day: Four-somes: B Elder and J Elder 12 to 11 (Howard and Young 4 and 2); Courville and B Marucci 12 to 11 (Rankin and B Marucci 12 to 11); Harris 3 and 2; Young 5 and 4; J Bore and J Harris 12 to 11; Wolstenholme and Rose 2 and 1; Leen and C Wollmann 12 to 11; Coughlan and D Park 1 hole. Four-somes results: United States 4 Great Britain and Ireland 0. Singles: B Scott lost to C Watson 1 hole; D Delcher lost to Young 5 and 4; Elder to Howard 5 and 4; K Nolen 3 and 2; 1 hole; Leen to Nolen 3 and 2; Gore to G Rankin 3 and 2. Wolstenholme 1 hole. Singles results: United States 4½ Great Britain and Ireland 3½. Second day: Four-somes: Courville and Marucci 12 to 11 (Howard and Rankin 5 and 4); Harris and Elder 3 and 2; Young 3 and 2; Leen and Wolstenholme 12 to 11; Wolstenholme and Rose 2 and 1; Delcher and Scott 12 to 11; Coughlan and Park 1 hole. Four-somes results: United States 3 Great Britain and Ireland 1. Match position: United States 11½ Great Britain and Ireland 4½.

## RUGBY LEAGUE

# Wolves see red and ease threat of relegation

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WARRINGTON WOLVES eased their Super League relegation fears with a rousing 23-8 victory over Salford Reds at Widnespool yesterday. The Wolves showed their teeth after a string of disappointing results, sealing a deserved win with second-half tries from Salei Finau and Nigel Vagana.

Salford failed to reproduce the form that had carried them to victory over North Queensland Cowboys last week and that knocked Warrington out of the Challenge Cup earlier this season. The Reds also had David Hulme placed on report in the 48th minute for the alleged use of his elbow on Jon Roper.

Lee Penny had to pull off an early try-saving tackle on Scott Naylor and the full back immediately supported a break from Vagana to touch down for a try under the posts with a Lee Briers conversion giving Warrington a 6-0 lead after ten minutes.

Warrington lost Mark Hilton after only two minutes with a shoulder injury and, after Salford had a try disallowed by Naylor for obstruction, the Reds opened their account with a Steve Blakeley penalty goal in the 22nd minute.

But then Paul Sculthorpe collected his neat kick ahead and led Vagana, who put Willie Swain over for his seventh try of the season and Briers added the conversion to make it 12-2.

An error by Finau conceded a penalty try to Darren Rogers just before the break, with the conversion by Blakeley giving Salford hope at 12-8 down at the interval.

However, Finau went over in the corner to give Warrington breathing space at 16-8 before Vagana sealed the win, with Briers adding his third conversion and then landing a late dropped goal.

Paris Saint-Germain are not yet out of trouble, but a 32-0 victory last Saturday over Halifax Blue Sox should go a long way to preserving their Super League status. The match was the first of two which were switched from

Paris to the south of the country because of the French holidays and a healthy crowd of 7,743 at Narbonne witnessed their comprehensive victory.

Halifax, now without a league win in seven matches, tasted defeat at the hands of the French side for the second time in six weeks. Their season is petering out badly as Paris are enjoying their most profitable spell. On Wednesday, they play at St Helens in the European play-off in the world club championship for the right to meet Brisbane Broncos in the quarter-finals in October.

Paris moved clear of Castleford Tigers and Oldham Bears at the bottom of the table with a six-try victory that clearly delighted Andy Goodway, the English coach, who is coaxing the best out of the mainly Australian players. "I was particularly pleased with this performance. Everything went as we practised," he said.

Brittle defending and a lack of imagination in attack conspired against Halifax, as Phil Bergman collected three tries and others were scored by Jason Eade, Paul Evans and Anthony Hancock. Matt O'Connor landed four goals as Paris triumphed by the biggest winning margin for a league game in the club's brief history. They return next Saturday to Narbonne for the match against Warrington.

Castleford's plight worsened in the 22-13 defeat on Friday night by London Broncos, whose victory has briefly held up Bradford Bulls' charge towards the title. Terry Matterson, the London captain, dismissed his team's outside chance of stealing the title from under Bradford's nose.

"Even if Bradford were to lose four games, their points for and against are too strong and I can't see them losing four games," Matterson said. "I hope they win them all because we play them in the last game of the Super League season. That should be a great game."

## Langer's title with birdie burst

BERNHARD LANGER, of Germany, with an eight-under-par 63, came from four shots off the lead to win the Chemapal Czech Open in Prague yesterday by four strokes. It was the fiftieth tournament victory of his career.

Langer finished with a 20-under-par aggregate of 264 for his 37th European Tour win, one which lifted him from fifth to fourth on the Ryder Cup points table and from seventh to second in the Volvo Order of Merit.

His round yesterday consisted of eight birdies and ten pars. It followed a 64 with seven birdies and 11 pars on Saturday — 15 under on the final two days.

Almost as delighted as Langer was Ignacio Garrido, of Spain, who had led overnight on 16 under par. Garrido could only manage a par 71 to share second place with Niclas Fehn, of Sweden, but, by winning £69,475, he clinched a Ryder Cup place at Valderrama next month. Garrido and his father, Antonio, who played in the 1979 Ryder Cup match at Greenbrier, West Virginia, will become the first father and son combination to have played in this prestigious event. Only Percy and Peter Alliss, who played in the Ryder Cup to the United States was drawn only from Britain and Ireland, have previously achieved this feat.

Ernie Els, the US Open champion, underlined his readiness for the US PGA Championship this week when he opened up a three-stroke lead after the third round of the PGA Buick Open at Grand Blanc, Michigan. Els, of South Africa, had a level par round of 72 for a 13-under-par total of 203.

Larry Mize, Brad Fabel and Curtis Strange were tied for second place, three shots behind Els.

Greg Chalmers, of Australia, beat Heinz-Peter Thul, of Germany, at the second hole of a sudden-death play-off to win the Challenge Tour Championship at East Sussex National yesterday. Chalmers, 23, shot a closing 65 for a ten-under-par 274 and only Thul was able to match it.

## Alfredsson reveals fighting qualities in runaway victory

BY PATRICIA DAVIES

HELEN ALFREDSSON, a Swede predictable only in her unpredictability, was the runaway winner of the McDonald's WPGA Championship of Europe at Gleneagles yesterday. She finished with a round of 70, two under par, for a total of 276, four shots ahead of Kathryn Marshall, the leading Scot, and Charlotta Sorenstam, yet another talented Swede. Trish Johnson and Laura Fairclough, of England, shared fourth place with Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, of France.

Fairclough, just a shot behind Alfredsson at the turn, struggled home in 41, six over par, as the wind changed to an easterly and removed the O'Malley factor from the King's Course's finish, the influence named after Peter O'Malley played the last five holes in seven under par to snatch the 1992 Bell's Scottish Open from Colin Montgomerie.

THE Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour's busiest week of the season saw three events staged over a selection of the finest golfing terrain in the country (Mel Webb writes). The week started with the boys being given a searching examination by Royal Birkdale, the venue for next year's Open Championship, and continued with visits to Seaton Carew and Barnham Brook.

Birkdale was at its toughest on Monday for the fifth tournament of the season in the national division of the Tour, which is being staged this year in association with The Times.

With easterly winds of up to 30mph, a winning score of 70, one under par, by Stephen Richards, who plays at Charridge Park, was an exceptional effort. Andi Pyc, of Braintree, was an early finisher and had to wait for most of the day before Richards came in to beat him by a single shot. Pyc made only one serious error — a double bogey, at the 13th — but it was enough to cost him victory.

Those in authority at Seaton Carew the next day set

Laura Davies, who even putted left-handed at the 17th, limped home in 40 for a 77. Of the leading contenders, only Sorenstam, who is the younger sister of Annika, the world No. 1, made inroads as she came home in 32, three under par, for a 68. Sorenstam drove into a bunker to drop a shot at the last, the 463-yard par five, that had been reachable with a drive and a flick in the earlier rounds, but was a genuine three-shotter yesterday.

Alfredsson had a big operation at the end of last year — the surgeon thought it might be June before his patient started playing again, but she was back in harness in March — and the ebullient 32-year-old was almost speechless after her victory. Almost.

"I can't even tell you in words what this means," she said, clutching a cheque for £45,000. "A year ago, I was as down as I've ever been and I didn't have a solution. I was

miserable. To have come back so soon and to feel that I was playing well, it's unbelievable."

There is little that is simple or straightforward about Alfredsson — she had to learn to walk properly again as well as rediscover her golf swing — and she came back her way, mixing horrendous shots with flashes of brilliance. She worked hard at simplifying her routine — she had become an irritating fiddler, largely as a result of physical discomfort — and yesterday she stuck to it, even in the heat of battle.

Janice Moodie, from Dunfermline, near Clydebank, was the leading amateur, finishing with a level-par 72 for a total of 286. She and Mhairi McKay, who missed the cut, make their professional debuts in the Westabix Women's British Open at Sunningdale this week.

Scores, page 36

## Richards flies home in high wind



For Further Information contact Colin Sorensen at The Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour office on 01425 674486

the players in the northern division the toughest of all possible tests. The wind blew and, with the field playing off the back tees, Craig Allison, of Clitheroe, and James Salt, of Ringway, did pretty well to come in with matching 77s. Allison claiming victory after a comeback. Benjamin Wood, Daniel Wardrop and James Holmes tied for third place, with Holmes consolidating his position at the top

of the northern division order of merit.

Conditions were considerably more benign when the southern players went to beautiful Barnham Broom in Norfolk, on Friday. Four over par after ten holes, Mark Booker, a member at Royal Mid-Surrey, took advantage of the easier back nine to produce a winning score of 71 level par. Philip Palmer was second, a stroke behind.

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## CRICKET

# Lancashire outbid Sussex for Warne

By Derek Hodgson

OLD TRAFFORD (Lancashire won toss): Warwickshire (Hpts) beat Lancashire by 21 runs

LANCASHIRE have confirmed that they have made an offer to Shane Warne, Australia's leg-spinner, to become their overseas professional next season. The offer, a contract worth six figures, is dependent on medical advice given to their professional Wasim Akram, the Pakistan captain, on a recurring shoulder injury that has made him miss most of this summer.

A Lancashire spokesman said last night: "Both players know the situation. Our priority has to be to protect Wasim's future as a Test player and it may be that he will be advised to give up the extra strain of county cricket." Lancashire's offer to Warne is believed to exceed that of Sussex, who are also reported to have offered a contract worth more than £100,000. Warne, speaking on television yesterday, gave the impression that he knew he would be playing in England next summer.

His presence could hardly have improved yesterday's attendance of 8,000, competing as Lancashire were with live television appearances by England's cricketers and Manchester United. The teams were joint Axa League leaders, Lancashire having a game in hand, and as this competition now represents Lancashire's only hope of a success in 1997, this match was crucial.

So with Warwickshire at 53 for four, off 12 overs, Lancashire appeared to have the points bagged. Even that score represented a recovery, from 24 for three, instigated by the captain, whose 28 included a curious flat six over cover off Peter Martin.

Once Martin and Ian Austin had been relieved the old firm of Dominic Ostler and Trevor Penney were able to

add an 82 in the next 15 overs that gave the innings some substance. Ostler's innings was ended by a throw by Graham Lloyd from the distant wide mid-wicket boundary. Graeme Welch also perished on the boundary, while Penney's half-century off 69 balls was surrendered in the final blast. Martin finished with three for 32 and might have been left to bowl through his stint, his swing through the steamy air making attacking shots exceedingly risky.

Lancashire's target was 220 as a Saharan sun gave way to a more familiar Manchester cloud. Dougie Brown removing both openers in the first nine overs, Jason Gallian's departure, caught at mid-off, being the prelude to the full-on of this match. Neil Fairbrother and Graham Lloyd against the spinners.

Fairbrother swept Ashley Giles for four, Lloyd lifted Smith over long-on and 69 came in 11 overs before Lloyd, trying a reverse sweep against Giles, was bowled. Fairbrother flinging down his bat in frustration, Fairbrother still needed only 54 balls for his fifty and at 110 for three at 15 overs Lancashire were still favourites.

Penney, at mid-off, got his hand to a lofted drive by Fairbrother, at 54, off Giles, whereupon the master was left to guide the apprentices. Andrew Flintoff and Mark Chilton, into the rhythms of one-day cricket — tap-and-run, bang, tap-and-run, bang.

Lancashire, with seven wickets standing, were still edging it, 58 needed off nine when Gladstone Small was recalled. Flintoff immediately succumbing at long-on. Chilton was bowled forcing, and, with 54 wanted off seven, Fairbrother, 79 off 90 balls, took a huge swing at Small and gave a high catch behind. Warwickshire then showed their expertise, tightening the stranglehold.



Trevor Penney, of Warwickshire, cuts Gary Yates for two in front of a small crowd at Old Trafford yesterday

## Kent improve double chances

By Barney Spender

CANTERBURY (Kent won toss): Kent (Hpts) beat Essex by 117 runs

KENT have played some good cricket in the past week and they have been well rewarded for it, with the result that the disappointment of the Benson and Hedges Cup final in June, when they froze in the Surrey headlight, has given way to the reasonable prospect of an impressive double.

On Saturday, they completed an innings victory over Essex that lifted them to the top of the county championship, and yesterday, a comprehensive win over the same opponents at a packed and festive St Lawrence Ground moved them up to second in the Axa Life League, two points behind the leaders, Warwickshire.

There was just one sticky period, when they collapsed from 44 without loss to 52 for four in the space of five overs, but once Mark Ealham and Graham Cowdrey, who both made half-centuries, had rebuilt the innings with a muscular partnership of 89 in 14 overs, they never looked back.

The bowlers, particularly Alan Igglesden, hit their straps and the fielding and catching was of the highest order.

For Essex, though, there was rather less to shout about. They have played falteringly this season, a mixture of excellence and drudgery, and, for the second week running, their performance belonged to the latter. It was hardly a good preparation for tomorrow's

TABLE	P	W	L	T	N	R	Pts	PP
Warwickshire (4)	14	10	4	0	0	0	11.91	
Kent (10)	12	9	3	0	1	28	7.18	
Lancashire (9)	13	8	5	1	0	36	2.70	
Leeds (12)	13	8	4	1	0	34	4.71	
Essex (17)	13	8	4	1	0	34	1.94	
Worcestershire (8)	13	7	4	1	1	32	8.02	
Gloucestershire (16)	13	7	4	0	2	32	0.00	
Yorkshire (3)	13	7	5	1	0	30	6.61	
Somerset (5)	13	7	5	0	1	30	4.10	
Surrey (11)	14	6	5	3	0	30	3.78	
Nottingham (2)	13	6	6	1	0	28	0.40	
Northants (8)	13	5	7	0	2	24	0.20	
Gloucestershire (13)	13	5	7	0	1	22	0.50	
Hampshire (18)	14	4	8	0	1	18	3.25	
Derbyshire (11)	13	3	8	2	1	16	4.27	
Durham (15)	13	3	10	0	0	12	10.34	
Midsex (13)	13	2	9	1	1	12	9.23	
Sussex (14)	14	2	11	0	1	10	17.20	

(Last year's positions in brackets)

NatWest Trophy semi-final against Glamorgan and the prospect of going into that game without Paul Frithard, their captain, who tore a hamstring during the championship game, can only serve to blacken their spirits even further.

A target of 224 should have been within their compass, but once Stuart Law, who took over the captaincy, was well caught by Cowdrey in the fourth over, they seemed to lose their heads. Darren Brown spooned a catch to mid-on and Ronnie Irani ran himself out before he had even faced a ball.

That made it 33 for three and rather than rebuild, the remaining Essex batsmen, with the exception of Paul Grayson, played with a careless extravagance that allowed Kent to wrap up the match with 12.2 overs to spare.

Trevor Ward and Matthew Walker had given Kent a flying start with an opening partnership of 44 for the first wicket before both went in the space of four balls. In the ninth over, Walker swung casually at Irani's fourth ball

and Ward, who had just reached 4,000 runs in the competition, was then bowled by Stuart Law's first ball of the next over.

Nigel Llong and Alan Wells, stumped by Robert Rollins off a Stuart Law wide, joined the procession to leave Kent in some disarray, but Ealham and Cowdrey are canny cricketers and together they repaired the damage with an array of genuine shots and streaky slog.

Balham's test credentials may be a matter of lengthy debate, but there is little doubt that he is a most valuable one-day player and here he began the revival by dispatching Ashley Cowan to the boundary either side of the wicket off successive deliveries. He reached 50 from 67 balls, but two deliveries later attempted to sweep Peter Such, the off-spinner, and was leg-before. By that stage, though, Cowdrey, who began quietly, was into his stride. He rattled along to 80 from 79 deliveries, hitting nine fours and a six off Such into the pavilion, before he sided the penultimate ball of the innings to Law.

## Holloway restores the smiles

By Pat Gibson

TAUNTON (Somerset won toss): Somerset (Hpts) beat Gloucestershire by 73 runs

A SCINTILLATING 117 by Piran Holloway, his first century in one-day cricket, coupled with a magical bowling spell from Mushtaq Ahmed, delivered a severe blow to Gloucestershire's hopes of winning the Axa Life League title in a match that was full of meaning to these West Country rivals.

It was played on the pitch that Somerset wanted to use for the championship match and they took great delight in scoring 267 for eight from their 40 overs before dismissing Gloucestershire for 194.

On Saturday night, the Somerset players had been locked in their dressing room for an inquest into their feeble championship performance in which they conceded 38 for six on a harmless batting surface and just managed to hold on for a draw.

Yesterday, Somerset rattled along at more than six runs an over with the diminutive Holloway receiving splendid support from Ecclestone and Bowler. Ecclestone helped him put on 107 in 16 overs for the second wicket before he was caught at long on for 44. Bowler contributed 46 off 38 balls to a third-wicket partnership of 90 in 13 overs when he was held at mid-wicket.

Holloway, looking like a rag doll in the sweltering heat, battled on to his 117 off 107 balls with 11 fours. Somerset managed only 65 for the loss of six wickets in the last ten overs, but it did not really matter.

Wright and Hancock gave Gloucestershire a decent start, but they were in trouble as soon as Mushtaq was introduced for the twelfth over. He had Wright caught off his fourth ball and conceded only 14 runs from his eight overs. Rose completed his eighth for 23 runs and the wicket of Hancock and Gloucestershire were doomed when Harden ran out Young with a direct hit from long off. Burns took four wickets to return his best Sunday figures.

## Smith keeps title aspirations alive

By Jack Bailey

EASTBOURNE (Leicestershire won toss): Leicestershire (Hpts) beat Sussex by 44 runs

THE Leicestershire running fox returned home with something for the larger. The Sunday league title remains in sight. Their total of 184, though achieved with difficulty, was built round a fine 71 from Ben Smith and was followed by a disciplined innings in the field. Dominic Williamson's brisk medium pace earned him career-best figures of five for 32.

That Leicestershire wound up their innings within the realms of respectability, owed much to Smith. A popular man, he was roared on by his colleagues at every turn and gave good measure for the support he received.

At 51 for four, the Leicestershire innings was in need of revival and Smith and the left-handed Dakin began the reconstruction with a standard 60 in 14 overs before Dakin

played on to Kahn, a leg spinner, who kept the ball up to the bat. Thereafter, Smith led the way. His power behind his slight frame, as he supplemented his four fours with a six to the roof of a marquee, eased him past his half-century from 50 balls.

Sussex stuck to their task pretty well. Three smart run-outs prevented Leicestershire from running amok towards the end and on this pitch victory for them remained on the cards, especially when young James Ormond conceded 12 runs off his first over.

Leicestershire, though, quickly became more circumspect. Parsons kept Sussex in check with his brisk medium pace, while Mason with his off breaks and Williamson proved hard to force away. Macmillan took a couple of steeping catches towards the end to ensure that Sussex, despite Dakin's buccannery, lost wickets as they strove to catch up.

## Hutchison swings into contention

By Alistair Storie

PAUL HUTCHISON, with match figures of 11 for 102 in only his fourth first-class match, took Yorkshire to an unlikely victory over Pakistan A by 69 runs. The tall, 20-year-old international swung the ball prodigiously and, in this uncertain time for emerging professionals, has surely earned the right to closer inspection.

Yorkshire's pace attack, perhaps sensing the new ball was crucial, bowled more purposefully than in the first innings. Hutchison was immediately on target, trapping Raza, the Test player, in front. Wasim and Raza followed in successive balls after lunch and, at 63 for six, Pakistan A appeared to be folding. Elahi, unpenetrable for 140 balls, gave the touring team a ray of hope, but the reintroduction of Hutchison saw that evaporate.

## Butcher on song as Surrey cruise home

By Rupert Cox

THE OVAL (Durham won toss): Surrey (Hpts) beat Durham by seven wickets

ALAN WALKER, the Durham No. 11, could barely have selected a more apt tune to escort him to the wicket at the Oval yesterday. He pumped for Shampoo's "Uh-oh, we're in trouble" and, with the Durham innings bagging at 179 for nine in the penultimate over, his anxiety was well justified. On a fine batting wicket, it was not enough to extend the Axa Life title holders and Surrey duly sauntered home by seven wickets, with nine balls to spare.

What a difference a week makes. Then, Mark Butcher had been dropped by England and disciplined by Surrey for the antics that followed his dismissal at Lord's. Yesterday, he responded with a stylish 81 and, in so doing, demonstrated glimpses of his best form, although he left Darren Bicknell to carry the home

team to victory with an unbeaten 49.

Durham batted in fits and starts. David Boon and Martin Speight each hitting at grander offerings, but, when Speight gifted Jason Ratcliffe with a first Sunday victim of the season, the momentum and the contest were all but lost.

It was left to Mike Roseberry, the former Durham captain, to extend the innings by hitting an unbeaten 55 from 56 balls with two sixes and two fours. Baffled by a championship average of 11.5, Roseberry, batted with a refreshing abandon; gone were the inhibitions that have blighted his form in the county championship since moving from Middlesex after the 1994 season.

Durham's infirmity had been instigated by the Surrey beneficiary, Martin Bicknell, who dismissed both openers and finished with an impressive haul of four for 28.

A slow pitch assisted the spinners, notably Richard Illingworth, who was making his first appearance this season after a shoulder injury. Illingworth's right over cost 19 runs in an innings noteworthy for Rob Bailey, the Northamptonshire captain, completing 6,000 Sunday runs with a six over mid-wicket.

Until Solanki's flurry, in a sixth-wicket partnership of 49 in six overs with Rubeen Spiring, no batsman mastered the worn surface. Graeme Swann, 18, an off spinner, on his first-team debut, bowled David Leatherdale and had Solanki expertly taken by Warren to return figures of two for 28.

Kevin Curran also played his part, and this run out of Graeme Hick was a prime factor in the mid-innings breakthrough by Northamptonshire.

Spirling's dismissal, run out by Richard Montgomerie, with 57 needed from eight overs and only three wickets in hand, did not deter Worcestershire.

Nobody made a half-century and no partnership was worth fifty, the closest in the first innings being 49 in six overs between Durham and Curran. Lampitt's remarkable onslaught, while heaving a rigging rib injury, became all the more stunning in the context of the game.

## Emburey mauled by Lampitt

By Michael Austin

NORTHAMPTON (Worcestershire won toss): Worcestershire (Hpts) beat Northamptonshire by two wickets

THIS run-baked match had a most tantalising finish, with Worcestershire plundering an unlikely win as Stuart Lampitt struck to off five balls from John Emburey, the veteran Northamptonshire off spinner, to bring his county home with one ball to spare. Lampitt, in his element, cracked 6, 2, 2, 4, 2 from the fateful last over.

These remarkable events had seemed unlikely after Russell Warren made 44, the highest score of the game, for Northamptonshire, and also distinguished himself by stumping Gavin Haynes and catching Vikram Solanki.

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## WEST-BAY SCOREBOARDS

### Tour match

#### Yorkshire v Pakistan A

HEADINGLEY (final day of tour): Yorkshire beat Pakistan A by 69 runs

YORKSHIRE: First Innings 243 (D Byas 84; Azhar Mahmood 5 for 66)

Second Innings

M D Memon c Mujahid b Hassan 155  
M P Vaughan c Mohammad b Azhar 91  
A McGrath c Hassan b Abdul 43  
B Porter b Abdul 43  
A C Morris c and b Ali Hussain 13  
D Byas b Ali Hussain 11  
D Chapman run out 22  
G M Hamilton c Ali Hussain b Abdul 14  
D Fisher c Shoaib b Abdul 10  
C E W Silverwood b Abdul 1  
P M Huxton not out 1  
Extras (b 17, w 13, nb 42) 34  
Total 378

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-69, 2-94, 3-179, 4-204, 5-254, 6-340, 7-360, 8-366, 9-377

BOWLING: Shoaib Akhtar 23-5-60-0; Abdul Razzak 28-5-106-5; Ali Hussain 46-12-91-2; Azhar Mahmood 15-1-65-1; Hassan Raza 12-3-36-1

PAKISTAN A: First Innings 365 (Mohammad Wasim 155, Javed Kaif 61; P M Huxton 4 for 54; G M Hamilton 4 for 95)

Second Innings

Saim Ehsan c Morris b Hutchison 89  
Mujahid Jamshed b b Hamilton 73  
A Naeel c Chapman b Hutchison 13  
Hassan Raza b b Hutchison 7  
Mohammad Wasim b Hutchison 0  
Raza Chaytan b b Hutchison 0  
Javed Kaif c Chapman b Hutchison 0  
Azhar Mahmood c Porter b Fisher 35  
Abdul Razzak not out 1  
Ali Hussain c Byas b Hutchison 0  
Shoaib Akhtar c Byas b Hutchison 0  
Extras (b 5, w 3, nb 3) 8  
Total 187

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-22, 3-31, 4-57, 5-63, 6-136, 7-163, 8-167

BOWLING: Silverwood 10-3-24-0; Hamilton 12-4-62-2; Hutchison 12-3-4-38-7; Vaughan 10-1-41-0; Fisher 6-0-26-1

Umpires: G J Burgess and J W Lloyd

### Axa Life League

#### Kent v Essex

CANTERBURY (Kent won toss): Kent (Hpts) beat Essex by 117 runs

KENT

T J Ward b S G Law 22  
M J Walker b b Law 43  
A F Wells c Phillips b S G Law 1  
N J Long b b Law 1  
M A Ealham b b Such 80  
G R Cowdrey c b S G Law b b 14  
M V Fleming b b 15  
P A Strang not out 15  
J S Marsh not out 10  
Extras (b 8, w 7, nb 19) 24  
Total (7 wickets, 40 overs) 229

J B D Thompson and A P Igglesden did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-44, 3-45, 4-82, 5-141, 6-186, 7-221

BOWLING: Cowan 7-2-42-0; Kent 8-0-61-1; bari 6-22-3; S G Law 6-0-44-4; Such 6-0-52-1; Powell 3-1-17-0

Umpires: J C Balderson and P Wile

LANCASHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

OLD TRAFFORD (Lancashire won toss): Lancashire (Hpts) beat Worcestershire by 21 runs

WARWICKSHIRE

A Singh c Gallian b Martin 0  
M K Smith b Shadforth 46  
D R Brown c Wickett b b Martin 24  
D L Hemp c Hogg b Austin 4  
D P Ockler run out 63  
T J Penney b Austin 11  
G Welch c Fingleton b Gallian 3  
A F Giles b Martin 20  
R J Piper run out 8  
G C Small not out 8  
Extras (b 17, w 8, nb 8) 33  
Total (9 wickets, 40 overs) 216

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-15, 3-43, 4-53, 5-141, 6-171, 7-178, 8-202, 9-212

BOWLING: Martin 6-32-3; Austin 9-1-32-2; Shadforth 4-0-28-1; Yates 8-0-40-0; Chilton 3-0-18-3; Wickett 4-0-29-4; Gallian 1-0-1-0

Umpires: J C Balderson and P Wile

LANCASHIRE

M Wickett b b Brown 10  
J R Giffen c Donald b Welch 17  
N H Falkender c Piper b Smith 79  
G D Lloyd b Giles 24  
A Pincott c Singh b Small 24  
M Chilton b Brown 1  
R J Austin run out 8  
G M Hamilton b b Brown 8  
G Yates not out 11  
D J Martin run out 2  
D J Shadforth not out 2  
Extras (b 3, w 3, nb 2) 8  
Total (9 wickets, 40 overs) 196

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-36, 3-107, 4-132, 5-186, 6-196, 7-178, 8-186, 9-196

BOWLING: Welch 8-0-28-1; Brown 8-0-43-3; Donald 8-0-33-0; Small 4-0-27-2; Giles 7-1-30-1; Smith 5-0-29-0

Umpires: H D Bird and J H Harris

Middlesex v Hampshire

LORD'S (Hampshire won toss): Hampshire (Hpts) beat Middlesex by 16 runs

HAMPSHIRE

J R Lacey c Shab b Turf 34  
M L Hayden c Stokes b b Johnson 18  
R A Smith c Weekes b Johnson 18  
M Keogh b Johnson 21  
W S Kneeshaw b b 13  
S O Udal b b 1  
J P Stephenson not out 16  
S J Rennie b Fraser 9  
I A Noyes not out 9  
Extras (b 6, w 5, nb 4) 15  
Total (7 wickets, 40 overs) 216

L Savident and C Patel did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-103, 2-140, 3-157, 4-181, 5-185, 6-189, 7-210

BOWLING: Fraser 8-0-42-1; Hayden 8-0-35-2; Dutch 5-0-28-4; Johnson 8-0-35-3; Udal 5-0-51-1; Weekes 3-0-19-0

Umpires: J F Steele and T J Esley

Northamptonshire v Worcestershire

NORTHAMPTON (Northamptonshire won toss): Northamptonshire (Hpts) beat Worcestershire by two wickets

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

A Fothergill b Lampitt 39  
A L Pennington c Rhodes b Haynes 8  
K M Chilton b Lampitt 17

D J G Sales c Solanki b Hick 21  
R J Bailey b b Leathdale 21  
R J Watson c Spang b Mirza 43  
R R Montgomerie c Rhodes 16  
b Haynes 19  
K J Innes not out 0  
S P Swann run out 0  
J E Emburey c and b Leathdale 4  
I Mohammad Avram not out 1  
Extras (b 7, w 9, nb 19) 29  
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs) 206

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-69, 3-79, 4-86, 5-135, 6-177, 7-183, 8-189, 9-189

BOWLING: Moody 10-0-31-1; Magwood 8-0-38-3; Mirza 10-0-31-1; Magwood 8-0-38-3; Lampitt 4-0-20-2; Hick 8-0-44-1; Leathdale 5-0-30-2

Worcestershire

T M Moody c Bailey b Pennington 17  
W P C Weston c Montgomerie 4  
b Montgomerie 4  
G A Hick not out 16  
G R Haynes c Watson b Emburey 22  
K R Spang run out 30  
D



























**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Rank	Name	City	State	Age	Sex	Height	Weight	Service	Company	Phone	Address
1	1520 Robert L.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
2	1521 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
3	1522 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
4	1523 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
5	1524 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
6	1525 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
7	1526 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
8	1527 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
9	1528 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
10	1529 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
11	1530 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
12	1531 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
13	1532 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
14	1533 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
15	1534 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
16	1535 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
17	1536 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
18	1537 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
19	1538 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
20	1539 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
21	1540 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
22	1541 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
23	1542 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
24	1543 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
25	1544 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
26	1545 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
27	1546 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
28	1547 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
29	1548 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
30	1549 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
31	1550 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
32	1551 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
33	1552 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
34	1553 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
35	1554 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
36	1555 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
37	1556 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
38	1557 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
39	1558 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
40	1559 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
41	1560 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
42	1561 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
43	1562 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
44	1563 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
45	1564 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
46	1565 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
47	1566 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
48	1567 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
49	1568 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
50	1569 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
51	1570 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
52	1571 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
53	1572 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
54	1573 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
55	1574 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
56	1575 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
57	1576 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
58	1577 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
59	1578 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
60	1579 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
61	1580 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
62	1581 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
63	1582 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
64	1583 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
65	1584 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
66	1585 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
67	1586 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
68	1587 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
69	1588 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
70	1589 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
71	1590 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
72	1591 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
73	1592 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
74	1593 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
75	1594 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
76	1595 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
77	1596 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
78	1597 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
79	1598 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
80	1599 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
81	1600 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
82	1601 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
83	1602 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
84	1603 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
85	1604 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
86	1605 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
87	1606 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
88	1607 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
89	1608 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
90	1609 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
91	1610 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
92	1611 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
93	1612 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
94	1613 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
95	1614 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
96	1615 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
97	1616 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
98	1617 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
99	1618 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
100	1619 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
101	1620 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
102	1621 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
103	1622 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
104	1623 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
105	1624 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
106	1625 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
107	1626 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
108	1627 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
109	1628 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
110	1629 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
111	1630 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
112	1631 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
113	1632 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
114	1633 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
115	1634 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
116	1635 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
117	1636 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
118	1637 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
119	1638 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
120	1639 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
121	1640 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10"	150	150	150	150	150	150
122	1641 John C.	1545	1	4	5' 10						



## RESULTS AND STATISTICS

## TODAY

Interims: Kade International.  
Finals: none scheduled. Economic statistics: July producer prices, US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills.

## TOMORROW

Interims: BOG (q3), Colt Telecom Group (q2), Easyjet Group, Epwin Group, General Accident, Glynwed International, Morgan Sindall, Sedgwick Group, Smith & Nephew.  
Finals: VDC. Economic statistics: BRC July retail sales survey, July retail prices index.

## WEDNESDAY

Interims: BICC, Flying Flowers, General Consolidated, Independent Insurance Group, Life Offices Opportunities Trust, Millennium & Copthorne, Rosebys. Finals: Games Workshop Group. Economic statistics: July jobless figures, June average earnings, minutes of July Bank of England monetary policy meeting, Bank of England quarterly inflation report.

## THURSDAY

Interims: Freepages Group (q3), Hanson (q3), MAID, Micro Focus Group, Orange, WPP Group, Xenova Group. Finals: Kleinwort High Income, Media Business Group. Economic statistics: None scheduled for release in UK. US Treasury auction of 52-week T-bills.

## FRIDAY

Interims: Alliance & Leicester, Crown Eggless, Fleetch, LK Oil & Gas, Johnson Group Cleaners. Finals: none scheduled. Economic statistics: None scheduled for release in UK.

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.26	3.08
Austria Sch	21.50	10.50
Belgium F	36.50	2.120
Canada \$	2.118	0.851
Cyprus Cyp	0.563	0.851
Denmark Kr	11.71	10.82
Finland Mk	6.28	6.23
France F	10.32	6.54
Germany Dr	3.08	2.44
Greece Dr	484	446
Hong Kong \$	12.50	11.83
Iceland Kr	157	107
Ireland £	1.15	1.08
Israel Sh	5.80	5.80
Italy Lira	2029	2792
Japan Yen	186.83	182.10
Malta	1.058	0.908
Netherlands Gld	3.403	3.188
New Zealand \$	2.54	2.40
Norway Kr	12.82	11.80
Portugal Esc	308.03	286.00
S Africa Rd	6.09	7.10
Spain Ptas	257.78	286.00
Sweden Kr	12.36	12.28
Switzerland Fr	2.54	2.40
Turkey Lira	267.157	247.275
USA \$	1.883	1.540

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Exchange rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

## COMPANIES



## NICHOLSON

## Orange likely to ring up lower losses



Hans Snook wants 96 per cent countrywide coverage for Orange by the end of the year

**ORANGE GROUP:** Britain's fastest growing mobile phone operator reports half-year figures on Thursday that will show the progress it is making in reducing its start-up losses.

In the same period last year, Orange made net losses (it does not yet pay tax) of £125 million, or 10.4p a share, before notching up a deficit for the year of £229 million. This time round, estimates range from £73 million to £103 million. Analysts said attention will focus on the impact of changes made earlier this year to the incoming interconnect rate charged when calls are made to Orange phones from BT.

John Jensen, at Salmon Brothers, says the group is unlikely to turn in a profit until next year at the earliest and, more likely, 1999. Orange is certainly moving towards the black, but it is a slow process.

It is now the third largest cellular network operator, with 980,000 subscribers at the last count in June. But it remains way behind Vodafone, with 2.92 million subscribers, and Cellnet, with 2.76 million.

Its network now covers 92 per cent of the country and it is the aim of Hans Snook, managing director, to extend this to 96 per cent by the year end. Hutchison Whampoa remains its biggest shareholder, with almost 50 per cent, while British Aerospace continues to hold 22 per cent.

**BOC GROUP:** The shares ended the week on a high note after the admission from Zeneca that it is interested in buying Ohmeda, the group's healthcare business, which could fetch £1 billion.

But third-quarter figures tomorrow are likely to reveal the scars of unfavourable currency movements. Pre-tax profits are expected to be marginally ahead at £112 million, compared with £109 million last time.

NatWest Securities says that underlying volume growth in gases is expected to have continued at a reasonable rate—a point reinforced by recent reports from other US and European gas producers.

Order books at Edwards, the vacuum business, are showing signs of revival and the news should be fairly bullish. The performance of the distribution division is likely to reflect a buoyant economy, with Marks & Spencer recently announcing the

expansion of its food retail operation.

**ALLIANCE & LEICESTER:** Like the Woolwich, its recently converted rival, this newcomer to the banking sector is likely to offer only modest underlying growth when it reports on Friday.

Interim pre-tax profits are expected to be in the region of £18.5 million after exceptional conversion and reorganisation costs of £44 million. This compares with £8.6 million of costs in the first half of last year.

Credit Lyonnais Laing forecasts earnings per share of 16.2p, with a maiden interim dividend of 6.3p, one third of that for the year. With surplus capital of £725 million, the Alliance & Leicester is expected to use some of it for

acquisitions, with a further portion earmarked for a special dividend. CLL estimates that if half the surplus cash is returned to shareholders the payout could be worth 62p a share.

**BICC:** Losses at Cent Cavi, its Italian cables subsidiary, prompted brokers to downgrade their half-year figures, due out on Wednesday, some time ago. Henderson Crosthwaite was one such broker, reducing its pre-tax profit figure by 10 per cent from £62.7 million to £55.7 million.

At the time of the annual meeting in May, BICC reported that purchases by ENEL, the Italian state-controlled electricity company, were 30 per cent down on the previous year. This would result in something like a £10

million to £12 million reversal in operating profits this time round. Meanwhile, brokers will want to know about the group's rationalisation programme. The possibility of further cost cutting also threatens the group's ability to maintain the 12.5p dividend.

**GENERAL ACCIDENT:** Milder weather and healthy growth in life profits should enable the group to post a favourable set of interim figures tomorrow. Pre-tax profit expectations range from £240 million to £260 million, with Credit Lyonnais Laing's David Hudson coming out towards the top of the range with £257 million. That compares with the outcome of £194 million last time. The lower level of weather related claims is in stark

contrast to the previous year. Life profits growth will have been boosted by the acquisition of Provident Mutual.

Meanwhile, General Accident is likely to be largely unaffected by the strong pound. It has a low exposure to Europe and the bulk of its non-UK business is dollar denominated. The payout is expected to grow from 11.4p to 12.6p.

**SMITH & NEPHEW:** A decline in sales, profits margins and earnings is on the cards when the group unveils interim figures on Tuesday. Brokers will be looking for signs of a recovery in its fortunes. Pre-tax profits are expected to drop from £90.8 million to between £75 million and £82 million, with earnings also declining by around 14 per cent to 4.8p a share.

Sales are expected to decline by 4 per cent to £520 million after the effects of currency translations and this, combined with price deflation, should also have denting operating margins from 17.5 per cent to 16.1 per cent.

Now all hopes are pinned on the launch of Dermagraft, the artificial skin graft process, next year. But brokers say that without a recovery in its main markets, any useful contribution from Dermagraft cannot be sustained. Despite the group's problems, the market is still looking for an increase in the interim dividend from 2.3p to 2.4p.

**HANSON:** The group is a pale shadow of its former self, after the various demergers, and is now a focused building materials business. Third-quarter figures, until the end of June, will be announced on Thursday, but the emphasis will be on the first six months. The figures are likely to prove hard to interpret as there will be no comparisons. A pre-tax profit of around £100 million, producing earnings of 13p, is expected. The payout has been pencilled in at 4p.

ARC, the aggregates company, will have enjoyed better trading conditions and this should offset lower coated stone volumes. London Brick continues to hold 40 per cent of the market, but high stock levels mean it has been unable to force through price rises. Cornerstone in the US is likely to have enjoyed a solid performance, producing a like-for-like profit increase in the region of 5 per cent.

## ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

## Currency fallout

Financial markets on both sides of the Atlantic will be dominated in the early part of the week by the sudden seeming reversal of speculative currency trends. On Friday, this undermined dollar securities. So today's auction of short-term US bills will be watched more closely than usual. The dollar's sudden retreat, if sustained, will take pressure off the Bundesbank, whose chief economist has voiced worries over rising inflation and the mark. Even so, eyes will be on German retail and wholesale price data due this week. The median market forecast puts the cost of living up 0.5 per cent, raising annual inflation from 1.7 to 1.9 per cent.

In the UK, the statistical emphasis is also on inflation, but the sting appears to have been taken out of the Bank of England's *Inflation Report*, to be published during Wednesday, by the statement that the new 7 per cent base rate is reckoned enough to keep inflation on target.

On Monday, factory gate price data should continue to show the benefits of a strong pound. On the median of forecasts compiled by AFX, input prices fell a further 0.5 per cent in July, for an annual drop of 8.8 per cent. But predictions vary widely, from plus 0.7 per cent to minus 1.5 per cent. Output prices were stable in July, according to the median forecast, making 1.2 per cent inflation over 12 months, though FHSBC looks for a 0.5 per cent rise.

The headline retail price index is expected to show annual inflation up rises, 2.9 to 3.2 per cent on earlier mortgage rises, despite a 0.1 per cent fall in July. Even the lowest forecast is for 3 per cent inflation. Without mortgages, the targeted RPIX measure is expected to be down 0.3 per cent but annual inflation still up from 2.7 to 2.9 per cent. Forecasts vary from 2.6 to 3.1 per cent. Excluding taxes, underlying RPIY inflation is forecast to be up one notch to 2.3 per cent.

Labour market data, due on Wednesday, are projected to show another 30,000 fall in unemployment. Growth in average earnings is thought to have stayed at an annual 4.4 per cent in June but inflation of unit labour costs is reckoned to be up, perhaps from 2.4 to 2.7 per cent.

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

*The Observer:* Buy: Unilever. The Sunday Times: Buy: Celtic, Oriental Restaurant Group, Rolls-Royce. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy: Tinsley Robor, Firth Robson, Hazlewood Foods. The Mail on Sunday: Buy: Whitbread. Sell: NatWest. The Independent on Sunday: Buy: Field Group. The Express on Sunday: Buy: Northern Leisure, Spirit-Sarco, Black Arrow.

## Vickers' sale plan fuels talk of merger

VICKERS, the engineering group, will streamline its business over the next few weeks by offloading its medical arm (Christine Buckley writes).

The company, which makes Rolls-Royce cars and Challenger tanks, is looking to tie up a series of deals after the recent sale of its SAW Medical

Teknik subsidiary. Vickers hopes to identify purchasers for the remaining businesses in time for its interim results next month.

To maximise the value of the division, Vickers is thought likely to sell the businesses individually. The operations up for sale include incubators, neurological

diagnostics and equipment distribution, and should fetch more than £90 million.

Anticipation that Vickers would sell the rest of its medical operations have fuelled hopes for a merger with British Aerospace. But both companies yesterday denied anything was on the table. A

link would make sense through combining Vickers' armoured tanks and cars to BAe's defence capabilities.

A potential buyer for Vickers' medical businesses is Smiths Industries, which last week spent £136 million on Graseby, the medical devices and monitoring company.

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## B&amp;Q expands its presence in Far East

B&Q, the do-it-yourself market leader in Britain, is planning to open further branches in Taiwan as part of its drive into overseas markets (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The company, which makes the Kingfisher retail conglomerate, has one branch in Taiwan and is opening two more this year. It has now agreed terms to open a fourth branch towards the end of next year and Jim Hodgkinson, chairman, says it could eventually open as many as 25 branches in the country.

The Taiwan operation is run as a 50-50 joint venture with a local supplier. Kingfisher's current investment in Taiwan is between £10 million and £12 million. The company is also looking at other Asian markets.

## CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar  
1.5787 (-0.0680)  
German mark  
2.9249 (-0.1136)  
Exchange index  
101.3 (-4.0)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share  
3216.3 (+124.1)  
FTSE 100  
5031.3 (+132.0)  
New York Dow Jones  
8031.22 (-162.82)  
Tokyo Nikkei Avg  
19604.46 (-199.92)

## WORD WATCH

Answers from page 37

## VEASE

(c) A run before a jump. A rush or impetus. From the Old English *veasan* to rush. Chaucer, *The Knight's Tale*, 1386: "And thur out cam a rage, and such a vease, / That it made all the gate for to rease."

## WEVET

(c) A cumbow in southwest dialect. From *weave* and *weft*. "Ye skyppe over the open Oracles of truth, and are entangled in the wevett of error."

## WINDOLF

(c) Probably a refuse pit? East Anglian dialect. The second syllable is probably related to *deive*, *delf*. Compare the Suffolk *delf* a drain or ditch. "Andreas Louge de Pley foddil regiam vian et inde fecit usum wyndolf ad nocumetiam."

## YOUF

(c) To bark, especially in a suppressed manner; to snarl. A Jack Russell. Onomatopoeic and echoic. Cf. *yaff*. "And Cerberus, though but just whelped, / Did stand and yaff."

## SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Nth7? Qth7? (1... exf2 2 Nth6+ is devastating) 2 Rh5 winning the black queen.

Keep our opinions to yourself.

It's all very well to say share and share alike, but in all honesty wouldn't you prefer to enjoy of leisure your own copy of the Times Educational Supplement? The FE Focus section, in particular, really does deserve much more than a rushed flick through in the staffroom. So for opinions worth taking the time to listen to, buy your own copy, take it home and keep it to yourself.

FE FOCUS







# Macho management fails to fly with BA staff

Troubled staff relations dog Bob Ayling, the chief executive, says Jon Ashworth

As temperatures soared last week, thirty scribes turned up at Heathrow to witness British Airways taking delivery of its new "secret weapon" — a million pints of London Pride real ale.

Anthony Fuller, chairman of Fuller Smith Turner in Chiswick, west London, turned up with a couple of dray horses to deliver the first supplies. There was much back-slapping and bonhomie. A merry time was had by all.

Elsewhere, in baggage loading bays, behind check-in counters, and in the cabins of BA aircraft, many of BA's 60,000 employees are not having quite such a good time.

Talks between unions and management over BA's cost-saving proposals rumbled on, trailing the possibility of further strike action. Higher than average sickness levels have persisted since the strike, causing continuing disruption to flights.

At Heathrow, baggage equipment failures, combined with staff shortages and high volumes of transfer passengers, have left facilities under strain. Should the occasional BA baggage handler forget to load someone's suitcase, adding to the chaos, then who can blame them?

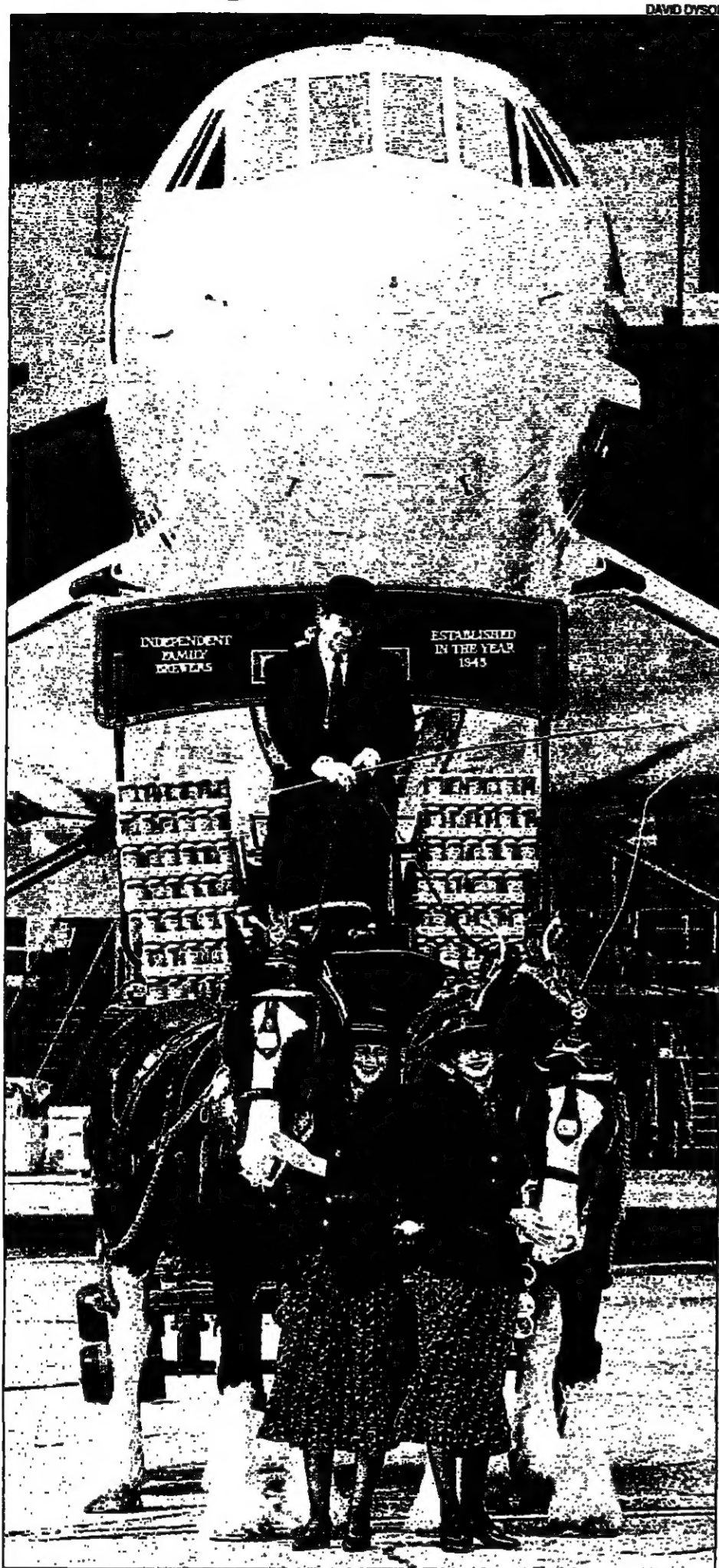
BA has yet to resolve its fundamental underlying problem — how to bridge the yawning chasm between a disillusioned workforce and a management that is seen as aloof, unsympathetic, and out of touch. Bob Ayling, the much maligned BA chief executive, has taken steps to remedy the situation, ditching Sir Tim Bell's Lowe Bell in favour of Alan Parker's Brunswick on the PR front and making — for him — vaguely sympathetic noises.

One of the problems Mr Ayling has — as seen by journalists, union officials and BA employees — is that his words come couched in the language of the management consultant. If employees are aggrieved, well then, that is to be expected at this stage of the cycle. The cost of industrial action, flagged at £125 million, but certain to rise, can be justified as necessary pain in the context of future cost savings.

Good textbook stuff, but not something that is likely to wash with the steward or stewardess dishing out meals at 33,000 feet in mid-Atlantic. In their jaundiced minds, this sort of language — dubbed *yukpeak* by BA insiders — reinforces the perception that they are numbers, not real people. Numbers can be erased with a line of Tipp-Ex. Numbers do not have families and mortgages.

Mr Ayling went into overdrive at the recent BA annual meeting at London's Barbican Centre when he told shareholders: "My vision is to lead a company where employees are inspired to provide excellent customer service, where everyone feels valued and respected, where employees are fairly rewarded, where they have smiles on their faces, and where they feel that British Airways is the only place to work." At this stage, that is exactly what it is — a vision.

Mr Ayling was at it again last week, explaining how BA's latest profits would assist in winning "the hearts and minds" of the workforce. He made some attempt to appear sympathetic, saying: "I'm the first to understand that people



New line: The first delivery of BA's latest secret weapon — London Pride real ale

find changes of the sort that we believe are necessary difficult." Fine sentiments, but somehow the words do not quite ring true.

Unquestionably, BA has a real need to reduce costs if it hopes to remain competitive. Margins are under relentless pressure; hence the rationale behind Mr Ayling's Business Efficiency Programme, aimed

at achieving annual cost savings of £1 billion by 2000. Mr Ayling believes he has to take a tough line with the unions, reasoning that any weakness now will prove his undoing.

Mr Ayling further believes that he is being used in a power struggle between the British Airline Stewards and Stewardesses Association (Bassa), and its breakaway

rival, Cabin Crew 89. From his viewpoint, BA staff are not inherently unhappy, but are being incited to rebellion by union firebrands. Cabin crew, pilots, baggage handlers — all have time on their hands in a way that whips one another into a frenzy. All this goes some way towards explaining his macho management stance. But in adopting such

fund managers tend to close ranks around a company's board in times of strife, whatever their private views. While applauding Mr Ayling's uncompromising stance, they will have watched the recent share price aerobatics with alarm.

It is worth remembering that MAM is fronted by Carol Galley, the fund manager who decided the outcome of Granada's £3.9 billion bid for Forte. Sir Rocco Forte tried to charm her into submission and was cast into the wilderness. Get on the wrong side of Carol Galley and nothing will save Mr Ayling. Not even a million pints of London Pride.



Tough line: Bob Ayling reasons that showing any weakness now will prove his undoing

tactics, Mr Ayling may be creating more problems than he is solving.

Textbooks work well enough in factories, but they are less attuned to the needs of a people business, such as an airline. People are involved at every stage, from check-in to boarding, to in-flight service. If they are aggrieved, the customer is the first to sense it. Throw in a few "accidentally" lost suitcases, and passengers seriously start considering switching to a more reliable rival.

Will Mr Ayling weather the storm? At BA's annual meeting, Sir Colin Marshall, the chairman, did his best to put the debate into perspective. Take the row over BA's multicoloured livery, introduced at a cost of £60 million. According to Sir Colin, opinions were equally divided when BA changed its previous colour scheme. As for staff cuts and cost savings, well, these things are never easy.

Sources close to the unions think further industrial action is unlikely. BA, severely shaken by last month's cabin crew strike, has no stomach for further confrontation. Seen the other way, the unions have achieved considerable publicity with their actions and will be reluctant to push their luck.

BA has its own ideas about improving relations between management and staff — although none sounds like the panacea for universal happiness. For one, Mr Ayling is planning an internal BA television network with "quite a substantial degree of independence in terms of its reporting", in which staff will have an opportunity to express their views.

As Mr Ayling explained recently: "We don't want people being unnecessarily destructive, but there are a lot of people who want to say things, and things that managers want to say, that are difficult to communicate by the written word and difficult to communicate in small meetings. I think this will be a very good way of improving internal communications and will allow a lot of the anxieties that people quite understandably have, when you go through a period of change, to be vented and answered."

Among other initiatives, Mr Ayling is keen to expand the existing BA workers' council into a broadly based representative body, allowing for a regular exchange of ideas. There are also plans for a company-wide programme of development and motivation. Mr Ayling said: "We've had many of them in the past. I think it would be right to have another one when we've gone through this, so we can try to bring everyone back together again."

Perhaps Mr Ayling's biggest challenge for now is convincing BA's major shareholders that he is still the right man for the job. BA's shares have performed handsomely since privatisation in February 1987, showing a gain of about 500 per cent, but the big institutions, led by Mercury Asset Management with a 17 per cent stake, will be concerned about any perceived longer term threat.

Fund managers tend to close ranks around a company's board in times of strife, whatever their private views. While applauding Mr Ayling's uncompromising stance, they will have watched the recent share price aerobatics with alarm.

It is worth remembering that MAM is fronted by Carol Galley, the fund manager who decided the outcome of Granada's £3.9 billion bid for Forte. Sir Rocco Forte tried to charm her into submission and was cast into the wilderness. Get on the wrong side of Carol Galley and nothing will save Mr Ayling. Not even a million pints of London Pride.

## A wildlife crusade

In the Wild: Pandas with Debra Winger  
ITV, 8.00pm

Accompanied by her ten-year-old son, Noah, Debra Winger travels to China to do her bit for the conservation of pandas. Unlike some other contributors to the celebrity wildlife series, Winger makes no attempt to play the Hollywood star. When she has to rough it, as inevitably happens during a 1,500-mile journey through inhospitable terrain, she mucks in with the least fuss. She also has to turn on the diplomacy when the trip is in danger of being scuppered by Chinese bureaucracy. Indeed she has to tread carefully all round in a country where animals come a poor second to human beings and China's leading authority on pandas is having a difficult time campaigning for their protection. But the obstacles finally fall away and in a forest touched with snow, Winger and son get their dream photo opportunity.



Debra Winger meets a cub (ITV, 8pm)

Calvary Wharf, sank off the coast of Ireland with a cargo of iron ore. For that modest outlay, Kent is the ship's owner. For years he has dreamed of raising the carrier, selling the contents and making himself rich. For somebody who lives on the margin it seems a barny idea. But Kent mixes optimism and obsessive determination in rich measure. He manages to buy and equip a salvage ship and by the end of Michael Clifford's enjoyable film you almost believe that it might happen.

All Mod Cons: The Pad  
BBC2, 9.30pm

The lively history of home improvement reaches the 1960s, when a new generation inspired by iconoclasm and bulging wage packets overturned traditional ideas about furniture and decor. Thanks to their new-found financial independence, young people left home early and sought the freedom of bedsit land where their imaginations ran riot. Out went three-piece suits and tasteful wallpaper. In came almost anything, as long as it bore no resemblance to what had gone before. It was the decade that saw the emergence of Habitat and a new crop of interior designers eagerly profiled by another innovation of the 1960s, the Sunday colour supplement. Ironically, the wacky chairs, the painted floorboards and the walls covered in silver paper now look as dated as the hippy culture to which many of these young people turned.

Peter Waymark

Short Stories: The Flying Scorpions  
Channel 4, 8.30pm

The slot for short documentaries by new filmmakers returns with a portrait of Shaun Kent, an Essex man of no settled abode who makes a precarious living buying and selling scrap. His proudest acquisition, which he acquired for just £1, is one of the least likely: In 1960 the Kowloon Bridge, a bulk carrier taller and broader than

Round Britain Quiz  
Radio 4 (FM), 12.25pm

I have a boundless admiration for the panellists who voluntarily climb on to the rack in this Spanish Inquisition of a game. "Your bewilderment is incomprehensible to me," says the chairman and chief inquisitor, Nick Clarke, to one of his perplexed contestants — or is that victims? He would never dare say such a cruel thing if he meant it as a joke. My own bewilderment at Round Britain is genuine, and I suspect the yours will be too when Clarke reads out this brainstormer from a listener: "In what avine environment did Tyler's offspring with a pain in the neck apparently discuss the structure of a product of Nimes?" Far easier is: "What connects Handel with a haircut?"

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe and Boy Lard 8.00am Mark Goodier 11.30am Radio 1 Roadshow, Live in Southsea. 12.30pm News 12.45am News 1.10pm News 1.15pm News 1.30pm News 1.45pm News 1.55pm News 2.00pm News 2.15pm News 2.30pm News 2.45pm News 2.55pm News 3.00pm News 3.15pm News 3.30pm News 3.45pm News 3.55pm News 4.00pm News 4.15pm News 4.30pm News 4.45pm News 4.55pm News 5.00pm News 5.15pm News 5.30pm News 5.45pm News 5.55pm News 6.00pm News 6.15pm News 6.30pm News 6.45pm News 6.55pm News 7.00pm News 7.15pm News 7.30pm News 7.45pm News 7.55pm News 8.00pm News 8.15pm News 8.30pm News 8.45pm News 8.55pm News 9.00pm News 9.15pm News 9.30pm News 9.45pm News 9.55pm News 10.00pm News 10.15pm News 10.30pm News 10.45pm News 10.55pm News 11.00pm News 11.15pm News 11.30pm News 11.45pm News 11.55pm News 12.00pm News 12.15pm News 12.30pm News 12.45pm News 12.55pm News 1.00pm News 1.15pm News 1.30pm News 1.45pm News 1.55pm News 2.00pm News 2.15pm News 2.30pm News 2.45pm News 2.55pm News 3.00pm News 3.15pm 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## ROGER BOOTLE 41

Prices, what prices?  
The great  
inflation mystery

# BUSINESS

## TAIL OF WOE 42

BA still buffeted  
by industrial  
turbulence



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY AUGUST 11 1997

## Utilities chiefs to do battle at vital meeting

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL  
CORRESPONDENT

UNITED UTILITIES will tomorrow hold emergency talks to try to repair bitter boardroom divisions and stem the growing crisis of confidence in the City.

The hastily convened board meeting will be a showdown between Sir Desmond Pitcher, the executive chairman who many institutions want squeezed out, and Sir Peter Middleton, the senior non-executive director who is also BZW chairman.

Sir Peter is in the middle of a series of talks with leading shareholders who were angered by the dismissal last month of Brian Staples, United's chief executive.

He is anxious to assuage the concerns of shareholders but has denied reports that he is keen to take on the role of chairman.

The meeting tomorrow is expected to try to shape an appeasement package — although this may fall short of the resignation of Sir Desmond that many leading shareholders are demanding.

Opposition to the chairman is likely to manifest itself in the review of the business that is due to be completed in October. Sir Peter is expected to promise leading shareholders that the review will have teeth.

It is likely to outline a succession plan that will almost certainly require Sir Desmond, 62, to leave before his intended retirement in 2000. This is the date by which Derek Green, the new chief executive, has said he wants to leave the company.

United is expected to emphasise to institutional investors the need for Sir Desmond to steer the company through the crucial opening of the electricity market to competition.



Sir Peter Bonfield, right, with MCI president Gerry Taylor as Robert Brace, of BT, looks on after the deal was announced last November

## Pressure mounts for BT to call off MCI merger

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BT shareholders are demanding that the company seeks a cut of up to 15 per cent in the £12 billion it is offering to acquire MCI, the US telecoms group that is suffering heavy losses breaking into local markets.

Some investors fear that even such a reduction, which would offer a saving of perhaps £1.8 billion, would not be enough to compensate for the risks of the controversial merger. Leading investors, said to include Prudential, Standard Life and PDDM, want BT to walk away from the MCI deal. Other institutions, such as Perpetual and Henderson, have also spoken out against going ahead.

Investors have been pressing their concerns on BT since a profit warning from MCI last month stunned stock markets on both sides of the Atlantic and helped to wipe billions from the valuations of both companies. MCI said the difficulties of breaking into local telephone markets meant that it will lose \$1.6 billion (£1 billion) on this business by the end of next year.

The upset has raised doubts about the global strategy that underpins BT's logic for the deal. Some critics say that the benefits claimed for the merger ignore the changing nature of competition within the telecoms industry, and the threat from Internet telephony. Others believe that BT has been outmanoeuvred by MCI's management, who have a tough reputation.

An industry source said that most shareholders "believe that the strategy still holds good but they want the price renegotiated". The pressure for a price cut could cause the deal to collapse, with the scope to renegotiate uncertain. BT has frustrated shareholders by consistently refusing to say

whether or not it has the legal option to rework the price.

MCI has also refused to shed light on the contractual arrangements. Even if there is a facility to renegotiate, a cut of 15 per cent is likely to prove inflammatory to MCI. US investors in MCI have been given strong signals

that the deal will go ahead as planned.

BT, whose shares will go ex-dividend today, triggering a price fall, is conducting a review of MCI's business. The report is due by the end of the month. Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive, returned last week from another trip to MCI's Washington headquarters to oversee the review.

BT has annoyed investors with the information vacuum that surrounds the troubled merger. The company has held no talks with investors ahead of the completion of the review although it has taken soundings of their opinions. At the company's first quarter results Sir Peter admitted that some investors had told BT that they had lost confidence with the management.

The company said yesterday that investors would be fully briefed following the completion of the report.

Institutional investors who are lobbying for BT to abandon the deal are thought to be growing. The Prudential and PDDM are said to have urged BT to ditch the deal.

Meanwhile, some stockbrokers have become increasingly bearish on the deal. Dresner Kleinwort Benson is one of a handful of brokers that has said that BT would be more profitable if it stayed independent.

James Dodd, its analyst, has warned MCI's core long distance business risks "a high chance of going into terminal decline" because of future competition.

BT could face penalties of more than US\$400 million if it pulls out of the merger.

## Virgin blames weather and old trains for late arrivals

By FRASER NELSON

VIRGIN TRAINS, the transport division of Richard Branson's empire, has the poorest punctuality record of any railway operator in the UK, according to figures from the rail regulator.

The company, which operates some 2,300 miles of railway through CrossCountry and West Coast Trains, has four of the seven least-punctual privatised services.

Figures for April, May and June — the first to take in a completely privatised system — name Virgin's West Coast Scottish service as the most prone to delays out of the 64 privatised networks. One in every four trains on the franchise runs more than ten minutes late, according to data from the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising (Opfr).

Virgin's North West service is the second worst, with an average of one in six trains delayed. Virgin CrossCountry comes close behind, with 11 per cent of its trains late, while 10 per cent of the trains on its West Midlands line kept passengers waiting.

A spokesman for Virgin said that the company was well aware of its shortcomings, and blamed them on the weather and the outdated infrastructure it inherited from British Rail. He said: "The problem lies with our worn out inferior trains that are getting towards the end of their useful lives. We aim to replace the train fleet completely, but clearly we can't tip down to Halifax and buy some new ones."

"As it stands, we have very worn trains on old infrastructure and this will inevitably cause delays. But when we replace it, it will be the showpiece of the world."

In the meantime, he added, the services would be slow to improve. Under the franchise agreement, Virgin is guaranteed a £92 million subsidy this year.

Opfr's figures show privatisation has so far failed to make trains run on time in spite of the privatised network having absorbed twice the level of public funds given

under nationalisation. Of the 64 networks, 33 delivered a worse standard of service than under nationalisation. Some £443 million was given out in subsidy over the period, with a total of £1.86 billion expected in the whole year, Opfr said that even by the end of the current franchise lifespan in 2003, the subsidy will be £927 million — still more than British Rail received before the recession.

Scottish Highland service was named the most punctual in the country, with the number of late trains halving since it was taken over by National Express four months ago.

Opfr's data also show that very few passengers have been able to make a claim under the Citizens' Charter.

This week in THE TIMES



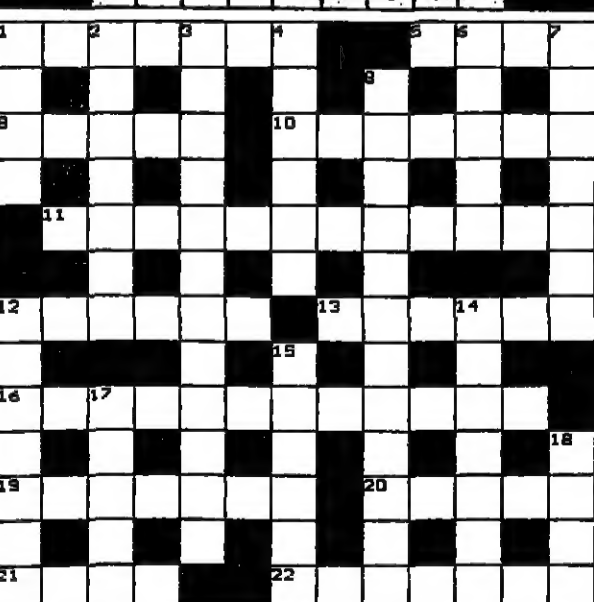
■ Tomorrow Merseyside's champion, Sir Desmond Pitcher, is on the ropes — can he recover?

■ Wednesday The Kasovics prepare to fight Li Ka-shing for Jardine Matheson

■ Thursday Formidable females: how top US women help one another

■ Friday Anatole Kaletsky on the latest from the economic battlefield

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



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